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AN

HISTORICAL AND PRACTICAL

TREATISE

ON THE

VENEREAL DISEASE.

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1796

AN

HISTORICAL AND PRACTICAL

TREATISE

ON THE

VENEREAL DISEASE;

DEDICATED TO HIS GRACE

THE DUKE OF QUEENSBURY.

ILLUSTRATED WITH

SOME REMARKABLE CASES;

BEING THE RESULT OF FIFTEEN YEARS EXTENSIVE

PRACTICE IN THIS METROPOLIS:

TOGETHER WITH

OBSERVATIONS ON A LATE PUBLICATION OF

DR. BUCHAN'S,

ON THIS COMPLAINT:

In which his Principles are candidly examined, and clearly refuted.

IN THIS WORK

IS LAID DOWN A MODE OF PREVENTION,

WHICH, IF UNIVERSALLY ADOPTED, WILL, IN A FEW YEARS,

ANNIHILATE THIS INVETERATE DISEASE.

BY C. B. GODFREY, M. D.

No. 1, Founder's Court, Lothbury, behind the Bank.

LONDON:

PRINTED FOR THE AUTHOR,

And Sold by H. D. SYMONDS, Paternoster-Row; and all other Booksellers.

BOSTON MEDICAL
JAN - 2 1926
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1. Mk. 101.

TO HIS GRACE

THE MOST NOBLE

THE DUKE OF QUEENSBURY.

MY LORD DUKE,

The benefit of mankind being the principal object of the following Treatise, it superfedes the neceſſity of apologizing for its being dedicated to your Grace;—humanity and benevolence being the paramount virtues

 which

which have invariably marked your whole life:—indeed theſe virtues as well as the title appear to be hereditary in the Houſe of *Douglas*, and give a permanent luſtre to that title, inſtead of receiving any from its accidental reflection.

The Traveller who has loſt his way in a dark inclement night, beholds with pleaſure and hope a diſtant light, by which he ſhapes his courſe to the roof of hoſpitality. In the ſame manner does the lamp of humanity (perpetually lighted in your Grace's breaſt) direct diſtreſs and affliction, from the dark receſſes of miſery, to the light of your Lordſhip's ſympathizing relief.

On this expanded and exalted principle, I make a congenial claim to your Grace's

patronage

patronage for the following Treatiſe, which illuſtrions ſupport, I have no doubt will give it a general circulation, and which in *a due ratio* to its extenſion, will, conſequently, promote the general good of mankind.

Health being the ſweeteſt flower in the variegated garden of life, it ſhould be the principal object of our rearing and preſervation, as without it the bleſſing of life is perverted into a malediction.

It matters not whether we are deprived of this ſuperlative bleſſing by inheriting or contracting diſeaſe, or by any negligence, accident, or incautious conſent of our own, —bad health when it breaks in on the conſtitution we ſhould treat like a houſe breaker, who, by whatever means he gets in, it is our

duty and our intereſt to get out as ſoon as we can,—if we appreciate our domeſtic ſecurity or happineſs.

In this contraſted contemplation of human happineſs and miſery, I have for many years made the Venereal Diſeaſe the particular object of my moſt ſedulous inveſtigation, well knowing that in the catalogue of human complaints, there is none more inimical to health and happineſs;—and I will not heſitate to aſſert that the items which compoſe Pandora's *imaginary* inventory of human ills may be eaſily *realized* by tracing the various effects of the Venereal poiſon on the human conſtitution.

To remove a general evil, my Lord, is to eſtabliſh a general good, in which benign

undertaking I anticipate with a ſecret pleaſure your Grace's co-operation; for, tho' elaborate performances may ultimately find their level of public approbation, yet the great work of humanity is partly ſuſpended, or at leaſt proceeds but ſlowly, until that event crowns the Author's labours, but it is rapidly promoted by the foſtering hand of ſuch exalted patronage as your Lordſhip's, which conſideration alone gave birth to the preſent dedication.

My Lord,—It is an inverted kind of vanity in ſome authors to mention their own labours with the epithets, *poor and weak efforts, to elucidate and make uſeful their ſubjects*,—in expectation, no doubt, that this affected cenſure of their own might procure them the praiſe of their patrons.—But I diſclaim ſuch

inſiduous methods of *obliquely begging* praiſe. I am bold enough to aſſert that the Venereal Diſeaſe was never better inveſtigated, more attentively purſued in all its latent receſſes, nor was there ever a more radical, rational certain and cheap mode of cure pointed out by human induſtry, than will be found in the following Treatiſe.—Under this conviction, and the probability of accompliſhing the general benefit I intended to mankind in my unremitting and painful inveſtigation of this diſorder, it is a conſolation to my mind to reflect that I have performed a duty which I owed to ſociety, and I take an open, undiſguiſed, manly pride, which I now publicly avow, in ſaying, that the extenſive knowledge I have acquired, is commenſurate to the pains and expence I have been at in acquiring it.

Upon

Upon this baſis I raiſe the foundation of a hope, that it will not only meet your Lordſhip's approbation, but alſo that it will not appear unworthy of your countenance and ſupport.

In ſeeking this protection, my Lord, I candidly confeſs my vanity, as whatever eſtimation ſelf-love may induce me to hold the merit of my own labours in, I have no claim to hope your Grace's patronage, but from your own generoſity; for in ſaying that your general character for humanity and benevolence is univerſally ſpoken of, I am only the echo of common fame; therefore, I cannot be ſuppoſed to offend by adulation in ſaying that what every one ſays, muſt be true; and that it was theſe ſhining, inherent virtues in your

Grace,

Grace, operated like a magnet of intellectual attraction on me, in dedicating to your Grace, a Treatiſe ſo evidently calculated for the alleviation of human miſery, and the promoting of human happineſs.

Vanity, my Lord, becomes a virtue, when its aſpiring effects are directed to procure the ſanction of the great and good, in the diſſemination of beneficial knowledge in matters of the greateſt importance to Society,—*viz.* that of preſerving and reſtoring health.

In this point of view, your Grace will hold the firſt place in the merit of the following ſheets, by your patronage of them, while the ſecond will be filled with humble gratitude,

and

and the moſt profound reſpect for your Grace's exalted rank and virtues, By,

MY LORD DUKE,

YOUR GRACE'S MOST OBEDIENT,

AND MOST DEVOTED HUMBLE SERVANT,

C. B. GODFREY.

No. 1, *Founder's Court,*
Lothbury.

and the most profound respect for your Grace's
exalted rank and virtues, I am,

MY LORD DUKE,

YOUR GRACE'S MOST OBEDIENT,

AND MOST DEVOTED HUMBLE SERVANT,

C. B. CLARKE.

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INTRODUCTION.

I FIND myſelf, in ſome meaſure, called upon by the reſpect I entertain for the practice as well as the regular practioners of phyſic, to aſſign my reaſons for departing from the regular routine of practice, and adopting my preſent mode of addreſſing the public through the medium of an abſtract publication. They are briefly theſe:—during a long and ſedulous attendance on the different Hoſpitals, I obſerved a great variety of inveterate Veneral caſes, when on enquiring into the hiſtory of their cure, I found that nineteen out of twenty of

theſe

theſe deplorable and almoſt incurable ſtages of the diſorder, had their origin in the ignorance, preſumption and inhumanity of empyriciſm--It, therefore, became (in my opinion) neceſſary that ſome profeſſional Gentleman ſhould ſtep forward publicly and boldly to offer his aſſiſtance in order to reſcue the unfortunate diſeaſed, from falling preys to the rapacity of itinerant pretenders, and that tho' there are ſeveral Gentlemen in the profeſſion whoſe abilities are decidedly ſuperior to mine in general practice, yet, theſe Gentlemen, from the extenſiveneſs and reſpectability of their practice, in other branches, cannot pay that particular attention to this important diſeaſe, which it merits from its rapid and progreſſive malignity, and which nothing but a particular devotion of ſtudy, attention, and application to its complicated inveteracy, is able to accompliſh; and as I am ambitious, by a ſtrict adherence to the elevated and honourable principle of humanity to the afflicted, to merit their eſteem, ſo am I anxious by every honourable means in my power, to obtain the encouragement of the virtuous and

enlightened

enlightened practioners of phyſic in this Metropolis, in carrying my preſent plan into execution.

In this age of refinement, where ſpeculation is ſyſtemiſed and reduced to a ſcience, and every bold adventurer is a ſelf-created adept—It will, I am afraid, ſtagger credibility, that profeſſional diſintereſtedneſs ſhould ereſt the ſtandard of philanthropy, and give this general notice to affliction, to repair to the temple of renovated health, to lay its burthen down and to reaſſume that greateſt of human bleſſings, a good conſtitution.—It ſhall be an invariable rule with me, and a governing principle in the proſecution of my preſent undertaking, to make ſelf-intereſt but a ſecondary conſideration to the good of my readers, as well as my patients; when I deviate from this fundamental maxim, I ſhall be content that the puniſhment attending ſuch dereliction may be the diſcontinuance of public favor.

I would wiſh to be clearly underſtood, that tho' the ſubject of the ſubſequent Treatiſe is meant to be

the

the treatment and cure of the Venereal Diſeaſe, and its malignant conſequences, yet, that I mean not to gratify or give the leaſt encouragement to licentiouſneſs, but that I ſhall treat this complaint and the diſorders ariſing therefrom with that philoſophical dignity, and that chaſte morality, which, as they are its principle ornaments, ſo they ſhould ever be the inſeparable attendants on the medical character; real modeſty ſhall have no cauſe, nor pretended modeſty a pretext—for offence.

It is not my wiſh to light the foul torch of impurity, but to extinguiſh its black flame; where it has been kindled and to eradicate and oppoſe its ſubtle and ſecret operations on the human ſtyſtem. In an opulent and over grown Metropolis like this, diſſipation muſt conſtitute a part of its local character, that unreſtrained intercourſe between the ſexes in a country ſo relaxed as this is in morals, and where the chaſtity of young men is a ſubject of ridicule inſtead of applauſe, individual attachments are formed which promiſed on the outſet

inviolable

inviolable durability—but the neglect (if not diſguſt) which too frequently follows ſatiety, the luſt of change, the diſparity of circumſtances, the influence of parental authority, or the more prevailing ones of intereſt, vanity, and ambition, deſtroy thoſe temporary unions, and on the ruins of theſe tranſient attachments indiſcriminate connections are formed; the conſequent ſource from which thoſe peſtilental evils flow—equally hoſtile to human happineſs, as to human propagation.—Chaſtity, therefore, being a virtue in young men, more to be wiſhed than hoped for in this age, all that is left for medical humanity to do, is to caution youth againſt the contracting this fatal diſorder—or to remove it as ſoon as poſſible after it has been contracted.

As the good of mankind is, as before obſerved, the primary object of my preſent undertaking, I anticipate the co-operation and future encouragement of every friend to humanity in carrying it into its moſt extended execution. If we

look

look at the melancholy catalogue of diſeaſes which fill up the picture of human miſery, we ſhall find the moſt dangerous date their origin from ſome ill-treated or neglected venereal taint. The laying down, therefore, the only certain method of preventing a diſeaſe of a nature ſo alarming, ſo diſtreſſing, and ſo fatal, will not, I am perſuaded, be conſidered an object of ſmall importance; and, as I doubt not of ſucceeding in this attempt, we then ſhall not have to lament the long liſt of incurables which at preſent diſgrace the annals of medicine. It will be a death blow to thoſe daring empyrics in phyſic, thoſe tinkers of the human conſtitution; who, ſhould they by chance remove one temporary evil, introduce five permanent complaints into the human ſyſtem; whoſe imprudence is an expletive to their ignorance, and whoſe rapacity has no limits, but in the purſes of their credulous and devoted patients. A plan of this magnitude, comprehending ſuch an extent, and embracing ſuch a number of beneficial as well as benevolent objects, will, I doubt not, meet with that encouragement

couragement which it merits from my countrymen, whoſe national characteriſtics are diſintereſtedneſs, benevolence, and humanity.

Whether we view this undertaking through the medium of a moral or political light, we can clearly ſee the happy termination of its effects on ſociety in either caſe. In the former, as earneſtly cautioning youth from a deviation from the paths of prudence and virtue, and giving looſe to irregular and deſtructive paſſions, by warning them of the conſequences inevitably reſulting from ſuch an indulgence, and through the latter medium, as preſerving the muſcular character of our countrymen from degenerating into impotence, imbecility, or inſignificance, for by debilitating and relaxing the powers of nature, we thereby impede the progreſs of population, which the wiſeſt Legiſlators, in all ages, held to be the principa wealth of every State. The converſe of the propoſition of courſe, muſt be admitted, that every impediment to it tends to a national impoveriſhment.

OBSERVATIONS

ON

A LATE PUBLICATION OF DR. BUCHAN'S.

A PUBLICATION on the VENEREAL DISEASE, made its appearance under the name of Dr. BUCHAN, of Edinburgh, in 1796, on which I ſhall make a few obſervations.---This Gentleman has been at great pains to ſhew the inutility of phyſicians, while he retains a veneration for medicine, and thinks, or ſeems to think, that until the one is emancipated from the monopoly of the other, its bleſſings can never be generally diffuſed.

This obſervation, I am much inclined to think, proceeds from ſome miſtaken opinion on the part of the Doctor, though perhaps he may have a ſincere wiſh to do good, as there appears, through the whole tenor of his remarks, ſtrong ſymptoms of ſome particular diſreſpect, which has led him to form this ſtrange averſion to the faculty at large; how otherwiſe he could perſuade himſelf into the opinion he has formed, I am at a loſs to determine?

In contemplating his wiſhes to ſerve mankind, and his many profeſſions of diſintereſted benevolence to ſociety, we almoſt overlook the extravagance of his propoſitions; but as too much credulity in profeſſions of this ſtamp frequently miſlead our judgment, it is neceſſary, when erroneous opinions are propagated, to canvas them fairly, and ſtate our objections with temper and moderation, ſo as to convince the author of his faults, and the world of our ſincerity, for though no one is compelled to adopt an erroneous ſyſtem, yet every

man

man who knows it to be ſuch, and conſequently injurious to ſociety, has a right, nay, indeed, is bound in juſtice to that ſociety, to refute its errors, and ſhew its evil tendency.

Dr. Buchan adopts Dr. Ruſh's opinion, that to lay open the myſteries of medicine, and teach every man to be his own phyſician, would be of the laſt importance to mankind, eſpecially as it would annihilate quacks. This meaſure would multiply the evil it was meant to remove, for by making every man his own phyſician, you make every man his own quack, if by ignorance of the healing art is meant a quack.

It is impoſſible to know any ſcience well without ſtudying and inveſtigating firſt principles; by this means, appropriate applications are made in all caſes; without this previous knowledge, chance inſtead of choice directs; for he that does not know which is beſt can have no choice,

It is a bad remedy in politics to introduce anarchy as a cure for deſpotiſm. To ſave your life or property from the cruelty or rapacity of one tyrant, you expoſe them to the danger of a thouſand; this would be exactly the caſe with him, who, to exterminate a few illiterate quacks, would introduce an inundation of that deſcription, by making every man his own phyſician. There is no need in pulling up the tares to pull the wheat alſo, however deſirable to every liberal, honeſt mind, to ſee the whole race of quacks exterminated; yet, I believe, few would conſent that the whole body of the faculty ſhould be the ſacrifice to effect it---a body, who from their learning, profeſſional ſkill, and humanity, ought to be conſidered not only as one of the greateſt ornaments of, but alſo as one of the *greateſt* bleſſings attendant on, ſociety.

Dr. Buchan ſays, to the enlightened age is owing, the *new order of things* in Governments, which he hopes to ſee extended to medicine:--- this is a Democratic ſentiment with a vengeance:

liberty

liberty and equality claims the privilege of medling with the Conſtitution of the State, why then ſhould it not have the liberty of quacking our perſonal conſtitutions?---thus phyſicians would riſe as rapidly as Cadmus's ſoldiers. In this *new order of things*, Dr. Laſt would hold as high a place in the page of fame as Dr. Fothergill. The indignation this language extorts from me, has led me into ſome digreſſional remarks, for which I beg my reader's pardon. I am ſick of that profligate cant phraſe---the enlightened age!---a term invented as a compliment of ſelf-love, as a *commiſſion* for licentiouſneſs, as a palliative for crime in its deſcending degrees of atrocity, a term invented to juſtify the ſubverſion of all order, and the extinction of the relative obligations connected with it. It is a flattering compliment to tell a cobler in his ſtall now, that he is as wiſe and as intelligent as a biſhop, a ſtateſman, or a phyſician of the laſt century; nay, that he is born with the inherent military virtues of an Eugene, or a Marlborough, and that he wants only a prompt occaſion to bring forth their glittering luſtre to the

world. It is well known what injury flattery may do ſometimes to great minds, how then can its miſchiefs be eſtimated, when it is given in ſuch large doſes to weak ones? The deſtructive conſequences of the new philoſophy of liberty and equality, ſhew too evidently to the world to need much comment.

Order is the fence and defence of ſociety. This order ſubverted, the fence is broken down, and the weapons of defence wreſted from it by anarchy. Is this a ſtate to acquire knowledge in? Is this an age to open the eyes of mankind to the deſpotiſm of power,---to the arts of prieſtcraft? An age that makes——

REBELLION,---*virtuous.*

LOYALTY,---*a crime.*

RELIGION,---*a farce.*

INDISCRIMATE MASSACRE,---*the road to Liberty and Equality.*

PROSCRIPTION,---*political precaution.*

CONFISCATION

CONFISCATION,---*ways and means*,

INVASION of Neighbouring Territories, accompanied with all the mercileſs depredations of Calmuck Tartars,--- *a diſſemination of the glorious bleſſings of Liberty and Equality*.

AND

FRATERNIZATION, or the Fraternal embrace ---*Squeezing to Death* ! ! !

I muſt confeſs, that if the diabolical philoſophy of the age, and *the atrocities ſanctioned by its fundamental principles*, does not open the eyes of mankind to the blaſphemous inſult offered to the ſupreme Being, and this unexampled affront to the dignity of human reaſon, in thus attempting to turn the moſt horrid and flagitious vices into public virtues—I am at a loſs to ſay what will.

In making this declaration, I would not have it underſtood as any dereliction of patriotic principles, no—I love liberty, tho' I hate anarchy—I idolize freedom, but I reprobate licentiouſneſs—

I love

I love a virtuous King, but I hate and deſpiſe a vicious, proud, obſtinate, profligate Miniſter:—I love the ſacred obſervance of the laws of my country, becauſe, virtuouſly obſerved, they are the bulwarks of its rights, and the ſentinels of ſocial happineſs:—preverted, neglected, or abuſed, they muſt bring diſhonour, and ultimate deſtruction on my native country.

The moſt beautiful fabrics ſuffer dilapidations from time, let thoſe be repaired, and the venerable temple may laſt with diffuſive ſplendor for ages yet to come! therefore, no friend to his country can wiſh a Revolution; no one that is not an enemy to its honour and proſperity, but wiſhes a reformation in repreſentation;—for I take it to be a fundamental conſtitutional maxim—that the bleſſings or miſeries of this country, will always bear a political ratio to the magnitude or diminution of miniſterial influence.—Theſe are the ſentiments of ſobriety; not the heated language of party enthuſiaſm, and facts of ſuch patriotic inflexibility, that they will not yield to the menaces

of

of our avowed enemies; nor can they be overturned by the ſophiſtry of our pretended friends. A real well wiſher to himſelf, his country, or ſociety, wiſhes not for a *new order of things*, (the common diſſipated cant of the times) he only wiſhes for the reſtoration of the *old order of things*, that is, the reſtoration of peace, honor, the independance and happineſs of his country, with all their accuſtomed ſocial concomitant bleſſings:—this *old order of things* will never be reſtored, until a more equal repreſentation in Parliament takes place;—and this I repeat again, that it is as demonſtrable as any propoſition in Euclid, that the miſeries and burdens of this country will never be diminiſhed until the venal majority of our Houſe of Repreſentation be leſſened.—

In any ſtate of general fermentation, or the general adoption of new fangled opinions, it ſhews no great art to make an appeal to the popular ſide of the queſtion:—on this principle Dr. B. has addreſſed the public; he has flattered their vanity at the expence of his own conviction, and

the

the ſacrifice of that truth which the experience of ages has unequivocally eſtabliſhed. Namely, that the period aſſigned to human exiſtence is too ſhort to acquire a compleat knowledge of Phyſic; ſo abſtruſe, ſo variegated, ſo difficult, and ſo complicated are the avenues leading to ſuch general knowledge; tho' Dr. Buchan makes a Phyſician as ſoon as his Majeſty would make a Knight.

There is no doubt, however, but Dr. Buchan's Dedication to the public, has produced one good effect to himſelf—viz. a rapid ſale of his book. —But this I openly declare, that ſooner than abuſe the public or decry, the neceſſary uſe of Phyſic, and the abſolute utility of the learned body of Phyſicians,—I would prefer ſelling a dozen copies of one ſolitary edition of my work, in which I could have the happineſs to reſcue the public from becoming the dupes of an eaſy credulity, than in ſelling twelve hundred copies of as many editions—wherein I led them aſtray, either by propagating an impoſition or diſguiſing the truth.

The evils of ſickneſs and diſeaſe, in their various forms, are the inheritance and the lot of human nature. It is, therefore, the moſt noble, as well as the moſt abſtruſe of all human ſciences, to learn to counteract thoſe effects ſo diſaſterous in their nature, as to wage perpetual war with the happineſs of mankind.

It would certainly provoke military riſibility to hear any one aſſert, that raw levies haſtily embodied, were more to be depended on for offenſive and defenſive operations than veteran troops.

As well might the elevated piety, the glittering abilities, the illuſtration of moral life—in Uſher, Tillitſon, or Blair, be compared to the indigeſted nonſenſe, the heterogenious abſurdity, the ridiculous extravagance of ſome of Weſtley's field preachers, as the utility of ſelf-created Phyſicians, to thoſe, who, by long and painful reſearches into the cauſes and cure of diſeaſe, have nearly arrived at the zenith of perfection—In this *new order of things*, I ſhould not wonder to ſee the Ephemeris

of

of ſome aſtronomical Quack, put in competition, nay, receive a decided adoption, in preference to the *immortal Newton's ſyſtem*, " *Men get ſo enlightened and ſo learned in this Age of Reaſon!* "

O Irony,—where is thy ſneer?
O Ridicule,—where is thy ſarcaſtic ſmile?
O Satyr,—where is thy ſting?

To reprobate this *new order of things!* this invaſion of order, this introduction of chaos, this ſacrilegeous innovation on the ſacred rights of ſocial nature, reaſon, religion, and learning! the principles of which opinions are ſpeculated in the privy counſel of Pandemonia, and reduced to practice on earth!

So much for politics, the new *order of things*, and the improbability and impoſſibility of ſuch order having any other effect upon Phyſic than a bad one; unleſs it ſhould operate as a proclamation, under pain of death, to avoid taking any medical preſcriptions from ſuch muſhroon Phyſicians as Dr. Buchan would wiſh to create.

Having

Having made the Venereal Diſeaſe the particular ſtudy of my life:—I have written a courſe of lectures on the ſubject, part of which are introduced in this work.—Theſe lectures I have had the honour of delivering to very reſpectable and ſometimes very crowded audiences; and there is no retroſpect of my life, I contemplate with more pleaſure, than the honourable teſtimony I received from ſome of the moſt enlightened and eminent characters in this kingdom, who honored me with a marked attention at their repeated delivery;—not, I am certain, for any elegance of ſtile, or emphatical delivery, but for the induſtry diſplayed in the inveſtigation and explanation of the equivocal and unequivocal ſymptoms, which are the indicatives of that ſubtle diſeaſe; to the originality of which, my claim ſtands univerſally admitted.

Though no character in ſociety, no aſſumpton whatever, no ſpecies of impoſition, I reprobate more than a daring Empiric, yet to a perſon who has received a regular medical education, and where the aggregate of intellectual ability is directed

directed to one particular complaint, I contend for the poſſibility, nay, the certainty of his being able to effect a radical cure for this diſorder, even in caſes of accumulated inveteracy, in a very ſhort time, much ſhorter than that ſaid to be neceſſary by ſome very eminent Phyſicians. This declaration I am authoriſed to make, boldly in the face of the world, in diametric oppoſition to the opinion of Dr. B. not from hearſay or theory, but from my own immediate experience---the reſult of a long and extenſive courſe of practice in this diſeaſe.

A General conſcious of his own military ſkill, and the intrepidity of his army--takes a garriſon by ſtorm in 24 hours, that might not be taken in as many weeks, proceeding by the leſs ardent meaſure of ſap; while the garriſon may have various opportunities of taking in proviſions and men--and by the ſame means, that it is ſtrengthening, protracts the ſiege, and, conſequently, renders its reduction more difficult.

The

The caſe is exactly ſimilar, when this diſeaſe is attacked by medical ſkill, no time ſhould be loſt to expel it--as by protracting the cure, you give a greater opportunity for the virus being abſorbed and converting that which was only local, into a conſtitutional diſeaſe; a variety of internal as well as external cauſes contribute to increaſe its malignity whilſt lurking in the ſyſtem, which makes a ſpeedy expulſion the more indiſpenſibly neceſſary. But as this expeditious cure cannot be accompliſhed but by ſuperior ſkill and experience, I earneſtly recommend to thoſe afflicted, to be cautious to employ no one, but thoſe who are univerſally diſtinguiſhed for a *combination of practical with theoretical knowledge.* It is time that gives its principal inveteracy to this diſorder: hence ariſes the *indiſpenſible* obligation to patients of an early diſcloſure of their ſituation.--Falſe ſhame expoſes human life to as much danger as falſe courage:--therefore, whatever ſhame opinion may attach, in contracting this diſorder, there ought to be none in getting rid of it.

If judicious precautions are uſed, ſuch as I ſhall hereafter take occaſion to mention, in the mode I have laid down for preventing this diſeaſe, it will, in a great many inſtances, ſuperſede the neceſſity of any medical aid; but when once it takes hold of the ſyſtem, tampering or quacking confirms it, and renders that permanent, and ſometimes fatal, which was before but tranſient and fugitive.

Ignorant quacks, and quackers of themſelves, cut out more work for the regular Phyſician, than the indiſcriminate intercourſe of the ſexes, by reciprocal communication; *theſe facts being admitted, which*, indeed no rational man will attempt to deny, what then I ſay becomes of the pleaſing but deluſive theory of Dr. B. to teach every man to be his own Phyſician? Will the world attend to ſuch theories? can it be ſuppoſed that mankind is ſo ignorant, as to believe, that to wreſt the practice of Phyſic from the hands of the learned, the judicious, and experienced Phyſicians, and place it in thoſe of mankind indiſcriminately, would

would be of benefit to any people? ſurely not. Such a dangerous doctrine, teaches man to be the inſtrument of his own deſtruction, and the enemy of his ſpecies.

The following caſe, which recently came under my own immediate inſpection, is ſuch a ſtriking inſtance of this folly of men attempting to cure, or rather quack themſelves, that to illuſtrate it (as well as inculcate this momentous truth, and that it may operate as an example to prevent others from being wrecked on the ſame rock of preſumption) I feel it a duty incumbent on me to relate it.

A young man who was a journeyman to a tradeſman in Biſhopſgate Street, contracted the Venereal Diſeaſe, and was infected with a Chancre on the Glans penis, as well as one on the prepuce, for the cure of which, he followed the directions of a celebrated author for a conſiderable time, but here the ſkill of the learned Doctor was compleatly fruſtrated; it was not ſufficient to ſupply the patient with a liſt of various medicines,

that were of known efficacy in the cure of this complaint :--every one knows that mercury is a ſpecific, but every one does not know how and when to apply it to advantage; this knowledge is only to be obtained as the reſult of experience, and an attentive conſideration to the various habits and peculiarities of conſtitutions; this medical maxim is elucidated in the caſe under conſideration; for—altho' he followed the Doctor's directions of puſhing the mercurial courſe, till his mouth became ſore, and applied it externally, the diſeaſe, as he thought, ſtill continued with greater violence; he, therefore, increaſed his doſe, and more frequently repeated the mercurial applications; but here mercury was of all medicines the moſt pernicious, as the conſtitution of this patient was ſtrongly diſpoſed to inflammation, and the uſe of mercury conſequently increaſed that inflammation, which it ſhould have been his object to have leſſened; this neglect brought on ſuch an amazing ſwelling of the prepuce and glans, as to oblige him to keep his bed: For the want of proper medical attendance, and judicious application, it terminated in a gangrene; he continued in this

ſhocking

ſhocking ſtate, (the mortification having ſpread nearly over the whole of his teſticles) for four days, without a momentary intermiſſion, from the moſt excruciating pain: at this lamentable criſis, I was called in---to witneſs the deplorable end of this victim to ſelf-quackery---to his adoption of the *new order of things!* which, among other inverted bleſſings, makes every man his own Phyſician!!

He was now ſo much reduced, by the effects of the mercury, and the diſeaſe, that there did not remain the leaſt proſpect of his recovery; however, after removing the ſloughed parts, and ordering the neceſſary fomentation and poultices, I preſcribed for him, two grains of opium, to be taken immediately, and two tea ſpoonfulls of the powder of bark, every hour, or oftener, if his ſtomach ſhould be able to bear it; on my next viſit, I found him ſtill languiſhing and low, but the opium had procured a remiſſion of his pain; the ſame medicines, with the aid of nouriſhing diet, was ordered to be continued, but without the deſired effect, as the patient expired the next day,

leaving an uſeful memorial, and a laſting impreſſion on the mind, how eaſy it is to be firſt the dupe, and next the victim of ridiculous vanity; by ſuppoſing that reading a treatiſe on this ſubject, however elegantly written, ſuch a ſufficient ſhare of medical knowledge may be acquired, as to enable unprofeſſional men, ſucceſsfully to treat every ſpecies of Venereal infection with ſafety.

If this patient had applied in the early ſtage of the complaint, to any well informed practitioner, he would, from the appearance of the chancre, have been able to have diſcovered the conſtitutional diſpoſition to inflammation; and conſequently would have abandoned the uſe of mercury, until he had corrected this conſtitutional diſpoſition; for by continuing the application of mercury in this caſe, he encreaſed that diſeaſe which he intended to have leſſened, and the livid appearance of the ſkin, which is one of the characteriſtic ſigns of the commencement of mortification, he took as a proof of the great degree of virulence of the venereal poiſon, and of courſe increaſed

creaſed his mercurial applications, when they ought to have been totally laid aſide. For the want of a right diſcrimination, which is only to be acquired by a regular medical education, aided by experience, and the proper remedies neceſſary to be applied when the inflammation was likely to terminate in a gangrene, produced this cataſtrophe, and brought an early and young ſacrifice to the altar of that deſtructive abſurdity of ſelf-cure, and the adoption of the doctrine of ſelf-created phyſicians!

This doctrine needs only to be mentioned to be reprobated, the above, with many ſimilar caſes which I could adduce, ſufficiently prove it.

I ſhall not trouble my readers with any further comment, it would be only to inſult their underſtanding. If I tell a man there is a well dug in a certain place, of ſixty feet deep, and that there is no covering on the ſurface, I think it would be a ſuperfluous precaution to tell him, at the ſame time, not to ſtay much on the brink, or to go that way on a dark night leſt he might fall into

it. I ſhall, therefore, content myſelf by ſaying, that it is a parallel caſe of deſtruction, with a man falling into the danger of becoming his own phyſician who has no medical knowledge.

Secrecy in this diſeaſe is very neceſſary, from various combining cauſes, and if I miſtake not, this truth was pretty well known before the publication of Dr. Buchan's elaborate Treatiſe. It is an excellent bait to credulity to believe what Dr. Buchan holds out, with a *flattering promiſe, that patients can cure themſelves in ſecret*—I tell ſuch patients as attempt it a tremendous truth—viz. *that they can alſo kill themſelves in ſecret*; and that too by the very means they attempt to cure themſelves! To ſay any more on the ſubject of *ſelf-cure* would, I think, be uſeleſs; to ſay leſs, would be criminal in a man of ſcientific experience.

ANTIQUITY

ANTIQUITY

OF THIS

DISORDER.

It would be foreign to my plan to enter into a detail of a ſubject which has been ſpun out to the length of volumes by elaborate and able writers, all of whom that I could ever procure, I have attentively read; among ſuch a variety of writers, it is natural to ſuppoſe, there muſt be a variety of opinions, ſome arguing hypothetically, and ſome from ſuppoſed inductions, others from eſtabliſhed and admitted facts, and their conſequent inferences.

Amidſt the variety of opinions reſpecting the origin and antiquity of this diſorder, ſome may, with ſafety, be adopted, as others, with equal propriety, ſhould be rejected.

In our purſuit after truth, eſpecially when that purſuit is dictated by humanity, and the general

good

good of mankind, Moraliſts ſhould adopt a principle ſimilar to that of Mathematicians: *viz.*---That the greater number of lines drawn from the periphery, to the point of concentrated interſection in a circle, the greater the proof that this point was the true center of ſuch circle, ſo, the greater concurrence of reſpectable opinions on any dubious ſubject, eſtabliſhes, to a moral certainty, *that* this coincidence of opinion is the center of truth. On this rational baſis, I have, therefore, erected the ſuperſtructure of my own opinion, and which, with humble deference and reſpect, I have now the pleaſure to lay before the public.

Some writers ſtick not to aſſert, that this was the diſorder which that great prince of antiquity, Job, ſo renowned for his wealth, ſufferings, and patience, was afflicted with; (but this opinion needs only to be mentioned to be refuted) and that the leproſy, ſo univerſal in Aſiatic countries, was nothing more or leſs in nature or malignity, than what we now call the Venereal Diſeaſe. But though diſorders may be ſimilar, we are not thence

thence to conclude they are the ſame, as I ſhall hereafter ſhew, with reſpect to the two now under comparative conſideration. At what time this dreadful malady, (the very idea of which poiſons the ſource of our moſt happy moments) was firſt introduced among mankind in general, or in Europe in particular, is a matter not eaſily to be aſcertained---thus much we may affirm, from accounts tranſmitted to us by ancient writers, that the lues, with its horrid and fatal ſymptoms, ſuch as we find it deſcribed, by medical and other writers, towards the end of the fifteenth century, had been unknown among the Greeks and Romans, though they were as much addicted to gallantry, as the French, or any other modern nation; otherwiſe, their Phyſicians, who are ſcrupulouſly minute, in recording both the diſeaſes known before and in their own time, would have mentioned it, as well as their cures, but we find they are ſilent, as to the Venereal Diſeaſe; hence it is clear that they knew of no ſuch diſorder, and though it is not much more than 300 years ſince this complaint made its appearance

pearance in Europe; there has been ſeveral hundred volumes, written on this diſeaſe, in the courſe of that period---Another opinion endeavoured to be eſtabliſhed on the antiquity of this complaint, is, applying the deſcription of the progreſſive ſtages of peſtilential diſorders, to that of the Venereal, and although there may be ſome trifling ſimilarity, yet they are quite diſtinct, the former being produced, through wet ſeaſons, peſtiferous damps and dews, and rendered it additionally malignant, by the wind being in certain points; whereas the latter, is in general only contracted by coition. Galen himſelf, entertains the ſame opinion with Hippocrates, reſpecting peſtilential diſorders.

Mr. Anſpruch, late Phyſician to Louis the XI. of France, a Gentleman of profound learning and indefatigable induſtry, has written a treatiſe on this ſubject, wherein he takes great pains, to ſhew---that this diſeaſe was endemical to the Antilles and the Iſland of Hiſpaniola, diſcovered by Columbus, and fixes the firſt period of its introduction

duction into Spain, and conſequently into Europe, at the end of the year 1494, by one Pedro de Mergait, a Catelonian Gentleman, who arrived with the mother of Columbus, from the new world:---the ſame author adds, that in October, 1495, when Columbus fell under the diſpleaſure of Iſabella, Queen of Caſtile and Leon, he was brought by her orders, back to Spain, with 400 of his ſoldiers, all afflicted with the Venereal Diſeaſe; here Mr. Anſpruch, quotes a variety of Phyſicians, equally diſtinguiſhed---for their veracity, as intelligence, together with many reſpectable hiſtorians, to prove that the venereal diſeaſe was then common in Hiſpaniola, and the adjacent iſlands, and that it was by the Spaniards brought over in the ſhips that went on the above expedition with Columbus.

So far phyſicians and hiſtorians ſeem to agree. Phyſicians of that time ſay, the whole arcana of medicine was ſought, but ſought in vain, for a remedy for it; hence it appears clear, that the diſorder was an exotic in Europe, as no cure was known

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known for it, and that a remedy ought conſequently to be ſought, and which has ſince been fortunately found.

From Spain it was ſoon communicated to Italy and Portugal, in both of which kingdoms, they called it the Spaniſh Pox, as did the French, which contagion they caught in the various changes of the war, carried on at that time againſt the Spaniards in Italy, where the wenches, who followed the reſpective camps, became the alternate property of either army, as they were reſpectively victorious.

We, as receiving ſuch a favour, from our neighbours the French, from a principle of *politeneſs*, as well as *gratitude*, have called it the French Pox.

It has travelled with commercial celerity through moſt parts of the habitable globe, the laſt place receiving it, calling it by the name of the country from whence it was imparted--Gonzalvo Fernandz

Fernandz de Oviedo, who accompanied Columbus in his diſcovery of the Antilles Iſlands, ſays, the women there, from habitual naſtineſs and indolence, often lived on worms, ſpiders, ſerpents, batts, and on a kind of lizard, palatable indeed, but poiſonous to any but the natives;---which induced Dr. Liſter to give a decided opinion, that this was the cauſe of producing the Venereal poiſon in theſe iſlands, and from which a rational preſumption is drawn, of their engendering in the very blood, a complicated ſpecies of poiſon; another circumſtance he mentions, and it is ſuch, indeed as will apply to all women under the torrid zone, that in their menſtrual ſtate, they are ſo intolerably hot, and ſo unuſually indecent, that they frequently lay in open highways, intreating and provoking indiſcriminate connections with men, the hetrogenity of whoſe ſemen, co-operating in conjunction with the two cauſes juſt mentioned, compleated the venereal poiſon, and gave it that complexion, it wore at its firſt introduction into Europe, by the ſoldiers of Columbus.

It would far exceed the limits of my preſent plan, to enter into an individual refutation of all the contemporary opinions, with reſpect to the origin and antiquity of this diſeaſe, maintained by Sydenham, Bennett, Arden, &c. &c. &c.---together with many others---as,

Firſt, That it was known to the Greeks and Romans.

Secondly, That it was known in Europe, before the year 1423 or 4, as above mentioned, and particularly in France.

Thirdly, That it is but another name for the leproſy; which latter diſorder, they ſay diſappeared at its introduction.

To theſe three principles, and general aſſertions, I ſhall particularly and briefly reply.

To the firſt. That it was known to the Greeks and Romans.

I ſay

I ſay not;—and for the reaſon already aſſigned, viz. that all their medical books are ſilent on the nature and malignity of the venereal poiſon, (at leaſt all that ever came under my peruſal) though it is alleged, as a proof on the other hand, that it was becauſe the very appellatives of the parts of the diſeaſe are Greek words; ſuch as phymoſis, paraphymoſis, &c. Granted. But this proves no more, than that there was a diſorder ſomething ſimilar to it among the ancient Greeks and Romans, who were, it is admitted, licentious and laſcivious in the extreme; and that from the exceſs of venery (though even among ſound perſons of both ſexes) it produced thoſe inflammations, excreſſences, &c. which, while they continued their unbridled licentiouſneſs, made remedies and relief neceſſary, but as ſoon as the repetition of contact ceaſed, its conſequences ceaſed alſo; but let thoſe who maintain that this was the Lues Venera, the ſame we now have, hear an undeniable proof that it was not that which is juſt obſerved:--- that as ſoon as the Roman votaries to Venus

left off their ſacrifices, their reſpective diſorders left them. Is this the caſe with the Venereal poiſon at this day?---Sad experience ſays ---no!---For the peculiar malignity of this diſorder is ſuch, that notwithſtanding they diſcontinue their intercourſe with infected or ſound females, the complaint ſtill rages with increaſing fury, and nature has no power inherent, as in other diſorders, to ſtop or free herſelf from the progreſs of this calamitous diſeaſe.

2d. That the *Lues Venera* was known in Europe before the year 1494, and particularly in France. If this aſſertion is true, it is ſomewhat very extraordinary, that Francis the Firſt of France, ſhould not find a remedy for it in his whole kingdom, where it was ſo boldly aſſerted to have reigned for centuries before. Francis caught it by an affair of gallantry with a tradeſman's wife, to which he ultimately fell a victim. Hence it is clear, that though the diſorder was known, its cure was not. It will alſo appear not only ſtrange, but abſurd, that had the venereal diſ-

order

order been known in France, for ſuch an alleged length of time, before the year 1493 or 4, at which period, I have already, I hope, ſufficiently proved its introduction into Europe by Colombus's adventures, that the Government and police of Paris, would not take the ſame pains which they afterwards did, in October, 1497, to prevent its ravages, at which time a decree was publiſhed, commanding every perſon in that metropolis, ſuſpected of the venereal infection, or who were found to be actually infected with it, to depart the city in 24 hours under pain of death, to prevent the deſſemination of this (then) new diſorder. The provincials, ſuſpected of having it, were ordered home to their reſpective countries from whence they came, and to return no more, till proofs of health ſhould be produced, under pain of death; and the inhabitants of Paris, who were infected, to be carried to the ſuburbs of Saint Germains, a place prepared for their accommodation, there to be kept till they produced certificates of their complete reſtoration to health,

under the incommutable penalty of death, for returning without ſuch certificate!

If then, the Lues Venera was, as it has been erroniouſly aſſerted to be, ſo well known in Paris before the period alluded to, why ſo alarmed at its danger from contagion, when it could not be diſſeminated but by coition, or by contact; and on the other hand, if it was ſo well known for centuries before, why not know the remedies to remove it, from all which combining and corroborating circumſtances and proofs, it will appear evident to any unprejudiced obſerver, that it was a diſorder lately introduced, for which there was at that time, no known, or at leaſt no certain remedy, and that, in conſequence of its novelty, its ravages became more dreaded; and its virulence getting ſtrength in proportion to its continuance without a cure, cauſed the above violent coercive decree to be paſſed, which never would have been done, if the opinion of its being a diſorder of ſome centuries continuance there, was founded in truth.

Now

Now I come to the refutation of the 3d and laſt of thoſe general aſſertions, viz.

That it was but another name for the the Leproſy, which diſappeared at its introduction.—In anſwer to which, I beg leave to inſiſt, that no two diſorders incident to the human ſyſtem, could be more diſtinct or ſeparate. In leperous perſons, the genitals are not more affected than any other part. The venereal diſeaſe never produces that inſenſibility, that was the concomitant companion of leproſy, and gave riſe to the proverb, "*As ſtupid as a leper.*" The elephantioſis or leproſy, moſt phyſicians that have written on it, affirm, that patients were ſeldom or never cured of it, whereas the very worſt ſtage of the venereal diſorder, in ſkilful hands, will generally admit of a cure.

When the Lues firſt made its appearance in Paris, ſo cautious were the commiſſioners of health, to prevent any intercourſe between the two deſcriptions of afflicted, that is, the lepers

and the poxed, that they took houſes on purpoſe for the leprous, to prevent their catching the venereal diſeaſe, and thereby add one calamity to another, under the idea, that the iſſue of ſuch connection, would entail additional hereditary deſtruction on mankind.

And with reſpect to that part of the general charge now under conſideration, which ſays, that the leproſy immediately diſappeared on the introduction of the Lues Venera, the contrary of ſuch aſſertion is proved by the concurrant teſtimony of moſt of the reſpectable phyſicians of Europe, who unanimouſly agree, that the leproſy was not extinguiſhed in Europe, until about one hundred years after the period of introducing the venereal poiſon from the Antilles, as before mentioned. Thus did the leproſy die, (if I may uſe the expreſſion), a natural death, as we have ſeveral inſtances of other dreadful diſorders dying, and are no more heard of, viz.

St.

St. Anthony's fire in France, which raged with ſuch deſtructive violence in the ninth and tenth centuries, — the ſweating ſickneſs in England, —and the ſneezing ſickneſs in Ireland.

Thus have I, I hope, to the ſatisfaction of my readers, clearly refuted the three once popular opinions, particularized as above, and ſettled the origin of the diſorder from the Antilles; refuted the opinion of its being known to the ancient Greeks and Romans; and finally, the abſurdity of its being another name for leproſy. Having now given a hiſtory of the diſorder, I ſhall make a few obſervations on the venereal infection.

Concerning the nature of the Venereal Poiſon, we know no more than we do about that of the ſmall-pox, or any other ſpecies of contagious diſorders: we know only, that the ſmalleſt particle of this poiſon is ſufficient to bring on the moſt violent diſorders over the whole ſyſtem, and like other contagions, it requires, ſometime after being introduced into the ſyſtem, before it produces that

effect. I am of opinion, that the venereal virus, has not its different degrees of acrimony, but that it is the ſame in every patient, it differing only with regard to particular parts to which it is applied, and to the different habits and conſtitutions of the perſons who receive it. I am led to a confirmation of this opinion, from obſerving, in the courſe of my extenſive practice, a number of patients who have contracted a confirmed lues venera, from perſons who were only infected with an apparent ſlight clap and *vice verſa*. I have obſerved patients with claps, communicate to perſons who have had connections with them, a confirmed pox.

It has been ſuppoſed by ſome medical writers, that mercury deſtroys the venereal virus by its ſedative; others by its evacuant; and ſome by its aſtringent properties; but I am convinced, it does not act on this complaint by its poſſeſſing any of theſe qualities, if it did, opium, as being a more powerful ſedative then mercury, would be a better remedy. Gambage Elaterium are greater evacuents;

ents; vitriol, baluſtines and bark, are conſider-ably ſuperior as aſtringents; yet none of theſe medicines have the power of curing the venereal diſeaſe. I am, therefore, decidedly of opinion, that mercury poſſeſſes a certain and ſpecific power of counteracting the venereal virus, by mixing with the poiſon, and changing it into that which is no more hurtful to the ſyſtem, but poſſeſſes ſome new properties, which neither of them had before they were ſo united.

We know the ſmall-pox is about three weeks before it makes its appearance, after the infection is received from the atmoſphere, and eight or ten days by innoculation; but the venereal virus ſeems to keep no particulur period, ſometimes attacking the patient a few hours after an impure connection, and at other times remaining ſeveral days before it makes its appearance.

The generality of men feel the firſt ſymptoms of a clap between the ſecond and fifth day, but there are inſtances which have come under my own

own obſervation, where it did not appear till after as many weeks: thus the greateſt part of mankind are eaſily infected with the venereal poiſon; but there are ſome who ſeem altogether to bid defiance to its effects, for, notwithſtanding that they run every riſk, they eſcape without ever being the leaſt infected. So it is with ſome, who, though they go into infected places, never catch the ſmall-pox, although they expoſe themſelves to innoculation, or every hazard by which the diſeaſe is generally communicated. Some perſons are more liable to be infected than others, ſeemingly of the ſame habit of body—nay, the very ſame perſon is more liable to be infected at one time than at another; and thoſe who have been once infected, are more liable to catch the infection a ſecond time, than thoſe who never were infected with the diſeaſe. The ſame difference is obſervable in the progreſs made by the diſeaſe after the patient is infected; in one patient the progreſs is ſlow, and the diſeaſe appears ſcarce to gain any ground; while in another it advances with

with the utmoſt rapidity, and ſpeedily produces the moſt terrible ſymptoms.

The climate, ſeaſon, age, ſtate of health, are, perhaps, as in other diſeaſes, the neceſſary predisposing cauſes in theſe caſes. I have likewiſe ſeen inſtances where the virus has laid four, five, or ſix weeks, on the ſurface of the genitals, before it was obſerved, and had it not then produced a chancre, it might probably not have been abſorbed. I have very frequently obſerved, that common women have communicated the diſeaſe to a variety of men in the ſpace of a few days, while themſelves appeared not to be in the leaſt infected, owing to the venereal virus remaining in the vagina, without being carried into the ſyſtem by abſorption. With reſpect to the time the poiſon may remain in the blood before it produces venereal ſymptoms after being abſorbed, is a matter not eaſily to be aſcertained; but it is univerſally known to the profeſſion, that it has remained in the ſyſtem for months, and even years, before it has produced evident ſigns of its being venereal.

real. I ſhall elucidate this obſervation by relating a recent, but melancholy and fatal caſe of a young man, who was under the care of a medical friend of mine.

This patient was afflicted with a ſmall chancre on the glands penis, for the cure of which he had recourſe to a certain patent pill; after continuing the uſe of them for two or three months, without finding himſelf compleatly well, he applied (as he informed my friend) to almoſt all the different noſtrums now advertiſed for the cure of this complaint. In the courſe of ten months the chancre healed, and he conceiving himſelf well, married. About eighteen months after, he felt a conſiderable degree of ſoreneſs in his throat, indeed he had often ſlight uneaſineſſes, which he attributed to cold, but it now became ſo alarming, as to induce him to apply for aſſiſtance to a neighbouring apothecary, informing him it proceeded from a cold; all the uſual medicines in that caſe were applied, but applied without the leaſt effect, and the patient became ſo much reduced

duced by the rapid increaſe of the diſorder, as to require the further aſſiſtance of Dr. Meyer, Phyſician to Finſbury Diſpenſary, who, as ſoon as he inſpected the throat of his patient, pronounced it venereal. His ſituation was now become truly deplorable—the bones of the throat, noſe, cheeks, and forehead, were diſeaſed; the caries bones of the cheeks puſhing the eyes nearly out of their ſockets, the eyes continued conſiderably ſwollen with violent pain for about three weeks, the ſight diminiſhing all that time, till at laſt it was totally loſt. In this lamentable and diſtreſſed ſituation, he was removed to the London Hoſpital, where he lived about a fortnight, the diſeaſe ſtill continuing its cruel ravages, till at laſt he became a moſt horrid ſpectacle, and his groans and ſufferings were ſo great, as to induce the whole ward to join with him in prayers for his ſpeedy diſſolution!

This fatal caſe I hope will be a caution to the credulous, not to truſt to the efficacy of noſtrums for their cure; there is ſcarce any diſeaſe

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in which more people pretend to ſkill than this, and among the whole hords of empyrics that infeſt, by their predatory ravages, this metropolis, there is hardly one who does not pretend to be in poſſeſſion of ſome particular medicine, ſuch as pills, drops, ſyrups, and other inefficacious and contemptible noſtrums, which, according to their vender's accounts, have performed greater wonders, than if aſſiſted by more than ſupernatural aid. Thus, with conſummate impudence, they impoſe on ſuch patients as have the misfortune to fall into their hands, and who, ſooner or later, generally ſuffer for their credulity; as was the inſtance with the unfortunate patient whoſe caſe I have juſt related.

It is undoubtedly true, that the cure of this diſorder, in all its different ſtages, requires not only a great variety of medicines, but a conſiderable degree of judgment in the choice and doſe of theſe medicines, and likewiſe ſuch an exact knowledge of the conſtitution of the patient, as is not obtained but by attentive experience and judicious

judicious obſervation. Hence more than common abilities are often neceſſary, perfectly and radically to cure confirmed lues, or venereal complaints which have been improperly treated.

The great number of unfortunate victims to ignorance and rapacity which we daily ſee, are but ſo many confirmations of the truth of this aſſertion. Formerly, venereal complaints were more violent, and more frequently fatal, than at preſent; this has been accounted for by the ſuperior malignity of the nature of the poiſon at that time—as experience has ſhewn that it afterwards grew more mild;—this I do not admit to be generally the caſe, as I have had patients under my care, whoſe caſes have been, in all their different ſymptoms, as violent and inveterate as any deſcribed by authors of the ſeventeenth century; but it muſt be acknowledged that thoſe dreadful complaints are by no means ſo frequently fatal as in former times. It is by ſome ſuppoſed to become milder by its diffuſion through mankind; but I am of opinion, that it is in conſequence of the

the preſent ſuperior method of cure, now adopted,—a method ariſing from long experience, and juſtified by long ſucceſsful practice.

It was the cuſtom in former times, to ſuffer the unfortunate perſons, afflicted with the lues venera, to die, without attempting to render them the leaſt aſſiſtance, conceiving this diſeaſe to be contagious and incurable; but ſometime after, a remedy being diſcovered, and thoſe abſurd prejudices expelled, patients applied for relief and obtained it from more humane and better inſtructed phyſicians and ſurgeons, and it is to be attributed principally to this, that the complaint is leſs frequent now than formerly. And alſo, that the different ſymptoms are leſs violent in London, than in any other part of Europe.

The benevolent mind muſt contemplate with infinite pleaſure, the number of noble and excellent charitable Inſtitutions that abound in this metropolis, where the afflicted poor in all complaints, eaſily find the beſt medical aſſiſtance adminiſtered

miniſtered to them in every degree of tenderneſs and attention, even the female ſex, who would perhaps, be deterred by ſhame from applying to ſuch places, eaſily find ſome benevolent and intelligent practitioner, who will undertake to cure them without any remuneration whatever.

No branch of medicines has, perhaps, received ſo many valuable improvements from modern practice, as the treatment of the different venereal complaints. Theſe improvements, I venture to ſay, were principally made, becauſe medical men themſelves were as much ſubject to theſe complaints as any other perſon, and I believe, that amongſt the various diſeaſes to which mankind are ſubject, there is none of which the cure is now more eaſy and certain than that of the venereal diſeaſe, if properly and judiciouſly treated; but on the other hand, if neglected or improperly treated, we ſee it often, not only extremely obſtinate, but ſometimes incurable and fatal, and it is an indiſputable truth, that many perſons have their conſtitutions

broken, and ſuffer more by unſkilful treatment, than by the diſeaſe itſelf.

It has been obſerved, that the violence of a venereal complaint has abated in the ſame proportion that medical knowledge has been diſſeminated among the different nations. I am, therefore, convinced, that ſhould the method which I ſhall hereafter recommend, be put in execution, with proper regulations and precautions, by mankind, in whatever climate, under the ſalutary guidance of medical inſtructions, all the ſymptoms of the venereal diſeaſe, would not only be rendered uncommon, but the diſeaſe itſelf might in time be regreſſively and totally annihilated.

I ſhall now ſtate the various ways in which an healthy perſon may contract this diſeaſe from another who is unhealthy; I think they may be reduced to the five following heads:—

Firſt, By the coition of an healthy perſon with another who is infected with the venereal ſymptoms of the genitals.

Secondly,

Secondly, By the coition of an healthy perſon, with one who is apparently healthy, this is accounted for by the virus being concealed without producing any bad ſymptoms. It is frequently the caſe, that a woman who has been infected two or three days, often gives the complaint to men, who have had connection with her, without any viſible appearance of the diſeaſe upon herſelf. A man may infect a woman in the ſame manner. Such inſtances almoſt every day occur to me in my practice.

Thirdly, By ſucking—the wet-nurſe in this caſe muſt have her nipples infected with the venereal virus, which will occaſion venereal ulcers on the child's noſe, mouth, lips; and, *vice verſa*, the child having venereal ulcers in the mouth, may infect the nipples of the nurſe.

Fourthly, By expoſing to the contact of the veneral poiſon, any part of the ſurface of the body, by kiſſing, touching, &c. eſpecially if the parts have been previouſly excoriated,

wounded, or ulcerated, by any cauſe whatever. Thus, we frequently ſee Midwives and Surgeons infected with this diſeaſe, by delivering women who have had this complaint upon them. I have likewiſe ſeen inſtances where perſons have given themſelves the complaint, by rubbing the finger on the noſtrils, lips, eyelids, with which they had been touching their own diſeaſed genitals, or any others, without previouſly waſhing the hands.

Fifthly, By a lancet or knife infected with the venereal virus, and afterwards uſed for opening or wounding any part of the body.

As there is at preſent ſome dangerous and unhappy prejudices generally prevailing about the venereal diſeaſe, and its cure, I ſhall make ſome obſervations on them:—

Some patients entertain an opinion, that ſhould the venereal poiſon be thoroughly introduced into the ſyſtem, they never can have it com-

compleatly eradicated, and therefore look upon themſelves as incurable: this is not only an unfounded, but an abſurd opinion, and renders thoſe who entertain it extremely unhappy; the female ſex eſpecially are more inclined than ours to encourage this ridiculous opinion; and I have frequently obſerved ſuch patients lead a moſt miſerable life, notwithſtanding all that could be ſaid by the perſon who attended them to the contrary. —Theſe patients ſtrongly excite our compaſſion, and claim our moſt careful attention,—for I hardly know of any thing more diſtreſſing to the mind, than to be perpetually haunted with ſuch frightful chimeras—a ſlight pain in the head, a trifling attack of the rheumatiſm, or a little pimple on the ſkin, is immediately concluded on as a convincing proof of the diſeaſe ſtill lurking in the habit, and about to produce the moſt fatal effects. Theſe fooliſh prejudices ſhould be corrected, by ſetting the examples of others before them, who have been as much, and perhaps a great deal more, afflicted than themſelves; and after a great number of years, enjoy

a good ſtate of health, and frequently bleſſed with healthy and fine children.

Another opinion equally abſurd is, that if mercury is once taken for the cure of the venereal diſeaſe, it will not ſo effectually cure it a ſecond time. Prejudices of this kind are more frequently, (as I have juſt mentioned) confined to women, and even men are ſometimes influenced by this childiſh opinion.

I ſhall mention another prejudice, which is equally wicked, as it is abſurd, and can only exiſt in men of the moſt abandoned and brutal diſpoſitions. Theſe inhuman wretches ſuppoſe the beſt way to get rid of a gonorrhea, is to have connections with healthy women; thus we ſee this complaint communicated to a dozen different women in a few days, and a variety of unfortunate victims left a prey to the ravages of this calamitous complaint. This ariſes from a mean and contemptible ſpirit of revenge upon thoſe who had never injured them, and from a vain

vain hope of abating the virulence of their own condition, having by their own licentiouſneſs and drunkenneſs, become dupes to others, exerciſe the malignity of retribution on other women, who thus become the incautious victims of inſidious importunity and unmanly luſt.

OF THE

GONORRHEA.

THE GONORRHEA takes ſome time before it makes its appearance after infection, being ſometimes quicker, ſometimes ſlower, ſeldom ſo early as within twenty-four hours, and very rarely ſo late as after twelve days; but in general, it makes its appearance about the fourth or fifth day.

The gonorrhea, or clap, is a virulent diſcharge of matter from the mucus glands of the urethra produced by the venereal poiſon being depoſited in thoſe parts, attended with more or leſs difficulty

culty in evacuating the urine, which, while paſſing, occaſions a ſcalding pricking, burning ſenſation the whole length of that canal, ſo as to prevent the patient letting the urine flow in a continual ſtream, but obliges him to let it come away in little ſquirtings, which adds conſiderably to the pain. This dyſuria ſeldom or never produces a fever, it being in general but a local inflammation, and like others of the ſame kind, ſeldom affects the whole ſyſtem. This diſcharge is never ſemen, as ſome patients ſuppoſe, as all matter diſcharged from the urethra in men, and vagina in women, is nothing more than the mucus of thoſe parts ſecreted in larger quantities than when in a healthy ſtate, and changed its colour and conſiſtency by the venereal irritation. This diſcharge ſeldom ariſes from an ulcer or ulcers in the paſſage, for out of the numerous patients I have cured of a gonorrhea, I do not recollect five who have had any ulcers in the urethra, though both ſexes are equally liable to this diſeaſe, yet the ſymptoms, diagnoſtics and prognoſtics differ greatly, and this

difference

difference is requiſite to be known, in order to know the beſt method of cure.

It is eaſy to conceive alſo, that different habits and conſtitutions require a mode of treatment diametrically oppoſite, I, therefore, think that, in theſe caſes, more attention ſhould be paid to the nature of the conſtitution, and leſs to the diſeaſe itſelf. The nature of the conſtitution is collected from the peculiar effects, for the operation of the poiſon is ſo different in different people, as to require a conſequent variety of treatment, a circumſtance little attended to by the generality of practitioners, each acting as though he had a ſpecific for every different ſymptom apparent in every different conſtitution; forgetting, that though the diſorder is the ſame, the conſtitution conſtitutes the difference in its various external aſſumptions, and which conſtitutional difference, creates of courſe, the neceſſity of different modes of cure.

Various

Various proofs of the validity of this doctrine will ariſe, upon the ſlighteſt conſideration.—In innoculating for the ſmall-pox, we find very often great variability in the diſeaſe—and this cannot, it is clear, be owing to the matter by which the diſeaſe is communicated, having any variability of action; for the ſame matter, taken from the very ſame pock, will produce, in different habits, a diſeaſe of a very different nature, complexion, and aſpect.

With reſpect to mildneſs and malignity, it is, therefore, obvious, the variation muſt ariſe from ſome deviation in the various habits, which will require different modes of cure. It is exactly the ſame with the venereal virus—and proves the fallacy and folly of truſting to any noſtrum, for the cure of a complaint, which requires as great a variety of medicines, as any other to which the human ſyſtem is ſubject.

GONOR-

GONORRHŒA,

The Method of Cure.

FROM the opinion that is generally entertained of this ſpecies of the diſorder, viz. that whatever ſhapes it may aſſume, it always ſprings from the ſame ſource—It might be inferred, that as ſpecifics are known for ſome ſtages of it, conſequently ſuch ſpecifics might be general in their application to all; but however plauſible this opinion may appear in theory, it is not confirmed by practice.

Common inflammations are cured by irritable applications—irritable inflammations, on the contrary, are cured by ſoothing applications. In caſes where iratability runs high, nothing ſhould be done, either internally or externally, which may contribute to ſtop the diſcharge, as that may be done without ſtopping the inflammation. I would

would recommend, by appropiate remedies, to effect a gradual alteration in the conſtitution, and thereby check or extinguiſh the diſpoſition to action in the parts—but where this cannot be done with efficacy, it is better to let the action exhauſt, and ultimately extinguiſh itſelf.

When the diſeaſe is ſo far ſubdued as to aſſume a mild form, its total eradication may be effected, either by internal remedies or external application. If an external cure is attempted, violence muſt be cautiouſly avoided, as it may bring back the irritation.—At this ſtage of the diſorder, I would recommend gentle aſtringents—but if the diſorder ſhould have begun mildly, and nothing indicative of the common or irritable inflammation appears, then an irritating injection may be uſed—this will give a temporary aggravation to the ſymptoms, but when diſcontinued, they will either abate, or totally diſappear. I would recommend aſtringents alſo in this caſe—in proportion as the ſymptoms of the gonorrhea differ, or make it neceſſary, I would alternately recommend

mend evacuants and aſtringents—I would alſo recommend thoſe evacuants which are of the purgative, or diuretic kind, as acting on the urinary paſſages mechanically, by waſhing off the venereal matter. I would alſo recommend to keep the body open almoſt in all caſes, as contributing eſſentially to the facilitation of the cure, I have recommended with ſucceſs, calomel, which I have known to have almoſt an inſtantaneous good effect. I am not ſingular in my recommendation of purgatives, ſeveral gentlemen of profeſſional celebrity have done, and ſtill do, the ſame,—and I adopted it on the general principle, that humours lay the foundations of all, or moſt, diſeaſes, incident to the human ſyſtem, and that purgatives are the moſt infallible means of ejecting ſuch humours.

Injections to ſuppreſs venereal inflammations in the uretha, are unqueſtionably uſeful—but as the repetition of them depends on the ſymptoms, a proper degree of caution muſt be obſerved in this

this particular inſtance, leſt their intended efficacy might be counteracted by irritation.

The injections which I have found moſt efficatious, in the courſe of my practice, are ſedative, emolient, and aſtringent—all which, as I am ſanctioned by experience in approving, ſo am I impelled, from juſtice, and a principle of philanthrophy, to recommend them.

Sedative injections may be compoſed of twelve or fourteen grains of *Saccarum Saturni*, in ſeven or eight ounces of diſtilled water, make a good ſedative aſtringent injection.—The free uſe of diluting liquors, as having a ſedative effect, I would recommend, as it leſſens the ſuſceptibility of irritation. Vegetable—mucilages of ſome ſeeds and plants—and the emollient gums, as by the impregnation of thoſe mucilaginous ſubſtances, with the patient's drink it leſſens the pain, and enlarges the power of making water.

Emollient

Emollient injections are decidedly the beſt where the inflammation is aggravated;—a ſolution of gum arabic, milk and water, or ſweet oil, is alſo very efficacious. Emollients may alſo be uſed externally—I have tried them with ſucceſs in fomentations, in caſes where the orifice of the uretha was ſo irritated, that the ſyringe could not enter.

Aſtringent injections—Their influence extends no farther than by diminiſhing the diſcharge, and by gradually leſſening it, and without encreaſing the inflammation, they complete the cure.—Dragon's-blood, balſams, and the turpentines diſſolved in water—the juices of vegetables, as oak-bark, tormentil-root, and Peruvian-bark, are under the head of Aſtringents.

The beſt external applications I have known to have a proper effect, are poultices and fomentations; but they are moſt uſeful in circumſtances where the external parts, ſuch as the prepuce glands, and orifice of the uretha, are

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in a certain degree inflamed. I have known mercurial ointment, with an emollient poultice over it, to be uſed to the ſurfaces, where the progreſs of inflammation appeared; but this, unleſs in ſome very peculiar caſes, I cannot recommend, it being as liable to increaſe as diminiſh the evil intended to be removed.

Of the Cure of the Gonorrhea in Women.

In women, the cure of the Gonorrhea differs little from the manner of cure in men. The diſeaſe being milder, the ſecondary ſymptoms are conſequently leſs numerous. This ariſes from the parts not being ſo liable to inflammation, hence the cure is leſs complex.

When the diſeaſe is in the vagina only, it is eaſily cured. Injections are the beſt means that can be uſed, it will be neceſſary as well as efficacious,

cious, to waſh the external parts often with the injection. If the inflammation extends itſelf to the urethra, injections then become inconvenient, if not very difficult, the canal being ſo narrow and interrupted.—The injections for men are of equal utility here, but they will admit of being made doubly ſtrong, as the parts of women are not near ſo irritable, as the ordinary ſeat of this diſeaſe in men. It is more difficult to aſcertain the preciſe period of cure in women than in men, for this reaſon, when the ſymptoms have ceaſed, the patient may conclude the cure to be complete; but a new examination of the parts often proves the contrary, eſpecially where the diſeaſe has only affected the vagina, but not the urethra. Where inflammation runs along the ducts of the glands, whether thoſe of the mouth of the vagina or urethra, or affects the glands themſelves, the ſame method is to be followed. If the inflammation on the mouth of the ducts is ſo great as to ſhut them up, the ducts and glands will neceſſarily ſuppurate, and frequently form abceſſes. In ſuch caſe, it will be neceſſary to open them,

them, or enlarge the opening already formed, and dreſs the abceſs as a chancre or bubo. At the ſame time, the conſtitution is to be treated as in chancres and buboes, leſt abſorption ſhould take place, which is the parent of the lues venerea, and which to prevent, I ſhould recommend a grain of *mercurius calcinatus* to be taken every night, which may be ſufficient; the continuance of the remedy to depend on the duration of the diſeaſe.

To prevent painful ſenſations in the parts, I have recommended a certain number of drops of *Tinctura Thebaica* to be taken going to bed. The *Cicuta* I have alſo recommended, it is ſerviceable but not in the degree the *Tinctura Thebaica* is.

How the Chordee is to be Treated.

Bleeding I have found uſeful, and the application of leeches to the parts.—Relief is alſo obtained

tained by expoſing the penis to the ſteam of water, in which water-creſſes has been boiled.

Poultices and fomentations, with the addition of camphor I have found of great ſervice—mercurial ointment afterwards applied to the parts, will promote the abſorption of the extravaſated coagulable lymph. In relieving the chordee, which ariſes from ſpaſm, I have in ſuch caſes recommended the bark with effect.

Of the Affection of the Bladder from Gonorrhea.

When the bladder partakes of the irritation or inflammation, I would recommend opiate clyſters. A warm bath, bleeding freely, more eſpecially if the patient is of a corpulent groſs habit of body, and alſo leeches applied to the perinaum.

Of

Of the ſwelled Teſticle.

No particular mode of cure can poſſibly be preſcribed for this particular ſpecies of venereal complaint. In the courſe of my practice, wherever I met with it, I treated it invariably as inflammation in general, viz. by ordering bleeding, purging, fomentation, aud poulticing, and directing the patient to the immediate uſe of the truſs. When the inflammation was ſubdued, but not before, I ordered mercurials, and this only when the induration remained. Caſes of the ſwelled teſticle require particular care and attention on the part of the practitioner.

The following diſtreſſing and fatal caſe, ſhews too evidently the danger of patients incautiouſly employing inexperienced perſons, totally unacquainted with the nature and cure of this complaint.

A quaker gentleman, who reſided in Holywell-ſtreet, contracted a gonorrhea, to prevent an expoſure of his ſituation, he took obſcure apartments near Eaſt Smithfield, and put himſelf under the cure of a gentleman, who has had for ſeveral years, theſe words written over his door, "*Juſt arrived from France.*" The gentleman had been under his care about three weeks, when a ſwelled teſticle made its appearance, his ſervant was ſent to inform the Doctor of this circumſtance, who preſcribed for his patient, mercurial ointment, ſent a box of pills, and a bottle of diet drink, with directions to rub the ointment on the ſwelling twice a day, and take two of the pills every night and morning, drinking half a pint of diet drink. The conſequence of ſo improper an application as mercurial ointment to the teſticles in a high ſtate of inflammation, muſt be obvious to every medical man: the inflammation and ſwelling was increaſed to ſuch an aſtoniſhing degree, that in leſs than ten days after the mercurial application, they were as large as a child's head of two years old: it is impoſſible for a patient to be

in

in this ſituation without being attended with its concomitant companion, a fever: the ſervant ſeeing the dreadful ſtate his maſter was reduced to, called in without his conſent (for the gentleman would not ſuffer himſelf to be ſeen by any medical gentlemen) a neighbouring ſurgeon, but notwithſtanding all neceſſary applications were made uſe of, the inflammation terminated, as moſt inflammations do, that have been in the beginning improperly treated, in a mortification, which in a few days put a period to the exiſtence of this unfortunate patient, who fell a victim to an union of theſe two diſaſtrous circumſtances, viz. a falſe ſhame in himſelf, and a want of ſkill in the perſon to whom he entruſted his cure.

Vomits I have found extremely efficacious, particularly as having an almoſt inſtantaneous effect in reducing the ſwelling.

Where the epidermis grows or continues hard, reſolvents I have found of great uſe, eſpecially mercurial friction joined with camphor; I have

have alſo recommended (with gradual ſucceſs) fumigations, with aromatic herbs, to accompliſh a ſtimulation of the abſorbents.

The criterions to judge of the extinction or termination of the gonorrhea, I have obſerved to be theſe, the running diminiſhes, grows whiter, and regreſſively diſcovers a more ſlimy and ropy conſiſtence, until it ultimately refines itſelf into that fluid which frequently lubricates the paſſage preparatory to coition. Where I found theſe marks, I concluded them to be an unequivocal proof of the extermination of the diſeaſe; and time always has juſtified me in drawing the inference, as I never knew any ſymptoms of the return of the diſorder after ſeeing theſe certain proofs of its total eradication.

With reſpect to the Treatment of a Gleet.

I ſhall be brief on this head, ſince, though ſometimes gleets are the conſequence of the gonorrhea, they are for the moſt part, the concomitant companions of a relaxed or debilitated habit or conſtitution.

In caſes where this complaint proceeds from the latter cauſe, I have always recommended the balſams of turpentines and cantharides—general ſtrengtheners muſt be uſed alſo, ſuch as the cold bath, the ſea bath, the bark and ſteel-aſtringent, gums, &c.

When gleets proceed from the common cauſe, or ſome diſorder in the urethra, a bougie of a ſize ſomething leſs than common, muſt be applied, which, ſhould there be a ſtricture in the urethra, it will impede it—but if it ſhould paſs without impediment, the diſeaſe may reaſonably be

be concluded to be in the proſtrate gland, and which to aſcertain, I always, in ſuch caſes, next examine—if the gleet, from its ſymptoms, ſhould appear to be the conſequence of a gonorrhea, then I recommend aſtringents of the decoction of bark, white vitriol, allum, and preparations of lead.

The aqua vitriolica cerulea diluted with a proportional quantity of water, I have uſed with ſucceſs as an injection.

Of Chancre.

This ſpecies of the diſeaſe is caught like the gonorrhea—by a connection between the ſexes; yet any part of the body is liable to infection, eſpecially if the cuticle is very thin.

It

It is often contracted in men on the frenum, glands, penis, and prepuce—and ſometimes on the fore part of the ſcrotom. It is longer in making its appearance than the gonorrhea. If the frenum, or, prepuce are affected, the diſorder appears ſooner than in the common ſkin of the penis or the ſcrotum.

Theſe parts being formed of a cellular membrane, of courſe afford an eaſier paſſage for the extravaſated juices. I have had caſes under my care, where the chancre has appeared in thirty, ſometimes in twenty-four hours,—and in others where it did not appear for two months.

When it begins on the frenum, or near it, that part is frequently entirely deſtroyed, or a hole ulcerated through it. It begins with itching, and ends in pain;—the ſurface of the prepuce is frequently excoriated, and afterwards ulcerated. If the venereal poiſon ſhould be applied where the cuticle is more denſe than that of the glands penis,

penis, or frenum, then it commonly appears in form of a pimple, which grows to a ſcab.

When the diſeaſe partakes of the inflammation peculiar to the habit, it becomes more diffuſed, and is frequently productive of phymoſis, and ſometimes paraphymoſis, which contribute much to retard the cure.

To the firſt appearance of chancres, it is indiſpenſibly neceſſary to pay the ſtricteſt attention, —and to their progreſs on the parts, as they are a kind of comment on, or explanation of the conſtitution.

If the inflammation ſpreads rapidly, it ſhews the conſtitution naturally inclined to inflammation. In proportion to the violence of the pain, it diſcovers a propenſity to irritation in the conſtitution—and where they form ſloughs, they have an unequivocal tendency to mortification.— As theſe marks point out the conſtitution, ſo do they the treatment.

When

When there is waſte of ſubſtance, either from ulceration or ſloughing—and when that loſs of ſubſtance has been conſiderable, it is no uncommon thing to have a profuſe bleeding, eſpecially if the ulcer is on the glands, as the adheſive inflammation does not take place to unite the veins of the glands, ſo as to prevent their cavity being expoſed—and the blood is allowed to eſcape from the corpus ſpongioſum urethra.

The ulcers or ſloughs, often go as deep as the corpus cavernoſum penis, where the ſame thing frequently happens.

Of the Phymoſis and Paraphymoſis.

Theſe complaints originate in the denſity of the cellular membrane of the prepuce, in conſequence of an irritation producing diffuſive inflammation,

mation, which happens in conſequence of a chancre in that part.

It may not be unneceſſary for me to obſerve here, that the prepuce is the doubling of the ſkin of the penis when not erect, being then too large for the penis, by which the glands is covered and preſerved when not neceſſary to be uſed, which, conſequently, renders its feelings more acute when the penis becomes erect—it fills the whole of the ſkin, by which the doubling, forming the prepuce in the non-erect ſtate, is unfolded—and is employed in covering the body of the penis.

A natural contraction of the aperture of the prepuce is not uncommon, and ſo great in ſome, as to cauſe a natural and conſtant phymoſis; and this may produce a paraphymoſis, ſimply by the prepuce being brought back upon the penis—for this ſtrait part, acting as a ligature round the body of the penis behind the glands, retards the circulation beyond the ligature, producing an

ædematus

ædematus inflammation on the inverted part of the prepuce.

This natural phymoſis is ſo great in children as not even to allow the urine to paſs with eaſe—but becomes progreſſively larger in their approaching boyhood and puberty. This part of the prepuce, though in moſt men it is looſe enough to prevent no inconvenience in a natural ſtate—yet I have known it contract without any viſible cauſe whatever, and has become ſo narrow, as to hinder the water from getting out, even after it has got free of the urethra. The caſes which I have ſeen of this latter complexion, have been moſtly in old men.

The prepuce frequently becomes in ſome degree inverted, by the inner ſkin yielding more than the outer, having a kind of neck where the outer ſkin naturally terminates. From the diſtention of the parts in a ſtate of tumefaction, it becomes almoſt abſolutely impoſſible to bring it back

back over the penis, ſo as to invert it, and expoſe the ſores on the inſide.

Such a condition of the prepuce, unleſs particularly attended to, is often productive of dangerous conſequences, eſpecially when the chancres are behind the glands. On the other hand, if the prepuce is looſe, wide, and is accuſtomed to be kept back in its ſound ſtate, or is pulled back to dreſs the chancres, and is allowed to continue in this ſituation until tumefaction takes place, then it acquires the name of a *paraphymoſis*; or if the prepuce is pulled forcibly back after it is ſwelled, it is then brought from the ſtate of a *phymoſis* to a *paraphymoſis*.

The laſt deſcribed ſituation of the prepuce, is attended with much the worſt kind of ſymptoms, eſpecially where it is changed from a phymoſis to a paraphymoſis. In many inſtances I have known the inflammation ariſing from this ſtricture, not only to affect the ſkin of the penis, in which is included the prepuce, but it attacks the

the whole body of the penis itſelf, frequently producing adheſions, and even mortifications in the cells of the corpora cavernoſa—either of which will inevitably deſtroy the diſtenſibility of thoſe parts ever after, and give the penis a curve to one ſide in its involuntary erections.

This ſometimes takes place through the whole cellura ſubſtance, producing frequently a ſhort and almoſt inflexible ſtump.

The following caſe will ſerve as illuſtrative of the above remarks, as well as to inculcate a leſſon of caution to the unſuſpecting and credulous patient, not to truſt to any noſtrums for the cure of a complaint that requires the concentrated force of human ability completely to eradicate it; ſo various and ſo different are the modes of cure neceſſary to be adopted, according to the various habits and conſtitutions of patients infected with this diſeaſe, eſpecially as it is well known, the diſeaſe takes its variegated complexion from theſe conſtitutional circumſtances:—

A young man, a pewterer, having contracted the venereal diſeaſe, was infected with ſeveral ſmall chancres on the prepuce, for the cure of which, he had recourſe to a certain famous (more properly ſpeaking, *infamous*) ſyrup, after continuing it for ſome time, without perceiving himſelf the leaſt benefited by this noſtrum, he changed it for another of equal celebrity; but theſe patent pills ſeemed to have no *ſalutary* effect on the complaint, and as the chancres increaſed in ſize, the prepuce began to ſwell, and the inflammation ran ſo very high, as to produce a moſt tremendous phymoſis, attended with conſiderable pain, he therefore waited on the gentleman, under whoſe ſanction they are ſold, for further advice; the perſon who ſpoke to him there, very *judiciouſly* preſcribed an ointment of equal parts, of bees wax and ſweet oil, as the beſt application to reduce the inflammation, and the pills (handing down a freſh box) were directed to be continued as uſual; he perſiſted in this courſe, till the inflammation terminated in a mortification, which deſtroyed the whole body of the penis, and had

ſpread

ſpread itſelf over a ſmall paat of the left teſticle; the pain was ſo violent as to deprive him of reſt for three nights, fortunately for the patient, I was called in at this period, and by proper fomentations and poultices, with powerful doſes of opium and bark, which joined with appropiate regimen, effected his cure in little leſs than a month; but his manhood was compleatly annihilated, the mortification leaving only a ſmall inflexible ſtump, of about half an inch in length.

My readers will therefore ſee, how neceſſary it is to guard againſt ſo melancholy a cataſtrophe, which at once puts an end to the power of communicating pleaſure to, or receiving it from the moſt deſerving objects of our tendereſt attachments.

They ſhould bear in mind alſo, that Venus, the prieſteſs of pleaſure, is ſomething like the prieſts of Baal, without they bring their gifts, ſhe likes no votaries to approach her altar.

A firm, manly reſolution, of running no dangerous riſks—will be the beſt preventive of ſuch a diſgraceful and humiliating calamity;—but where paſſion overrules prudence, the earlieſt poſſible application ſhould be made to medical intelligence.

CHANCRES IN WOMEN.

From the ſimplicity of the conſtruction of women's parts, this diſorder in them, is conſequently leſs complicated than in men.—When the matter is introduced into the vagina, it there irritates a ſecreting ſurface, but when lodged in the inſide of the ſkin of the labia or nymphæ, thoſe parts are only affected with a Gonorrhea, but yet are capable of ulceration.—Ulcerations are much more frequent in women than in men, for this reaſon, becauſe the ſurface on which they can form is much larger—we find them on the edge of the labiæ, ſometimes on the outſide, and even on the perinœum; ulcers formed on the inſide of the

the labiæ, are never allowed to dry or ſcab, but on the outſide they are liable to have the matter dry on them, which forms a ſcab, ſimilar to thoſe on the body of the penis or ſcrotum.

The venereal matter from ſuch ſores, is very apt to run down the perinæum to the anus, as in a gonorrhea, and excoriate the parts, eſpecially about the anus, where the ſkin is thin and often produce chancres in thoſe parts.

Chancres I have obſerved in the vagina, and which I take, to have ariſen from the ſpreading of the ulcers on the inſide of the labia.

Cure of Chancres.

There are two kinds of treatment for the chancres, the object of one, is to deſtroy them by means of eſcharotics, the other to extinguiſh the venereal irritation, by help of the ſpecific remedy for that poiſon.

Let it be remembered, that in the cure of the chancres, we have two objects in view, the cure of the chancre, and the prevention of a contamination of the habit.

The firſt is effected by mercury, either internally through the circulation, or externally in dreſſings, or in both ways as the nature of the caſe may make it neceſſary.

The ſecond, the preſervation of the conſtitution, which is accompliſhed by ſhortening the duration of the chancre, and which, conſequently, contracts the time of abſorption, and alſo by internal medicines, which in their adminiſtration, ſhould always bear a proportion to the continuation of the abſorption.

To Deſtroy a Chancre.

THIS can only be done on the firſt appearance of it, before the ſurrounding parts catch the con-

contamination. It may be done by cauſtic or inciſion, but experience juſtifies me in recommending the lunar cauſtic, which prevents the hemorrhage from the cells of the glans. I have continued this treatment till the ſore began to aſſume a red appearance, the certain indication of health, and in this ſtate it will heal as rapidly, in moſt caſes, as any other ſore produced by a cauſtic.

In caſes (which were very ſeldom) where the wound did not ſoon heal, I ordered a mercurial lotion to be conſtantly applied to the wound, and one grain of mercurius calcinatus to be taken every night, to avert any conſtitutional injury.

To Extinguiſh the Venereal Viſitation by the Specific for that Poiſon.

The cure of a chancre is not ſynonimous to its deſtruction, as it conſiſts in eradicating the vene-

real taint, which when accompliſhed, the healing of the parts becomes a neceſſary conſequence.

I ſhall now make ſome Obſervations on the Bubo, with its Cure.

The ſituation of Buboes, ariſing from the venereal complaint in the penis, are in the abſorbent glands of the groins, where a gonorrhea is the cauſe of a bubo, one groin is equally affected with the other.

I have ſeen inſtances, where a chancre on one ſide of the prepuce, has been productive of a bubo on the other ſide, which I think, without ſtraining it into a maxim, is a proof, that the abſorbents either anaſtomoſe or decuſſate each other.

Buboes

Buboes in Women.

I have known one very particular caſe that came under my own practice, and on which, I think myſelf juſtified in eſtabliſhing a principle, by which, in all ſimilar caſes, a ſkilful practioner ſhould be governed. It is briefly this:—

A lady of very great modeſty, and under the higheſt reputation for her virtuous and prudent conduct, applied to me not long ſince; ſhe was ill, but knew not the cauſe, though from the irregularity of the gentleman with whom ſhe lived, and who allowed her a very honourable maintenance, ſhe ſuſpected her complaint was the conſequence of ſome extra affair of gallantry of her keeper. She complained of an intolerable itching, and ſometimes a great ſoreneſs when ſhe walked, but no pain in making water. I examined the parts, but could ſee nothing that wore the appearance of infection, unleſs that the one labium was a little fuller than the other. I could not

not diſtinguiſh it, but by preſſing the parts with ſome degree of force, which gave ſome pain.

There are circumſtances where chancres are ſituated forwards, that is, near the meatus urinarius, nymphæ, labia, clitoris, or mons veneris, I have found, that the matter abſorbed is carried along one of the round ligaments, before they enter the abdomen.

When chancres are ſituated near the perinæum the matter abſorbed, is carried between the labium and the thigh, to the glands in the groin—hence ſmall buboes are formed in the abſorbents, not unlike thoſe on the penis in men, and which frequently produce a bubo in the groin.

Of the Cure of Buboes in Men by Reſolution.

If the bubo be in the groin, then I have always recommended to rub the mercurial ointment

men on the thigh; this ſurface will abſorb as much mercury as will be ſufficient to reſolve the bubo, and at the ſame time preſerve the conſtitution from being contaminated; but in caſes where reſolution did not take place as ſoon as I could wiſh, then I increaſed the ſurface of friction by rubbing the ointment on the leg.

Of the Cure in Women by Reſolution.

Between the labia and the thigh, the mercury muſt be rubbed in about the anus and buttock, as the abſorbents of thoſe parts paſs this way, and not into the pelvis by the anus. Buboes cannot always be removed by reſolution, as they will ſometimes come to ſuppuration. Sometimes the inflammation is great, though the ſuppuration is but ſmall.

When a bubo is very large, I have uſed a cauſtic, but when it is ſmall, a lancet will anſwer every bit as well—nay, indeed, I give it a preference; where I have done the buſineſs by cauſtic,

I gave the preference to the lapis ſepticus, which I take to be the beſt.—I have ordered the mercurial courſe to be continued until the bubo was healed.

But where any obſtinacy or diſinclination to heal appeared, I always recommended (when the venereal action appeared to be deſtroyed) a milk diet, country air, and a decoction of ſarſaparilla with mezereon, and in other caſes, I have recommended the warm ſea bath, which I have always found to have conſiderable effect.

Warts.

Warts are no more than excreſſences from the cutis or tumorous forming on it. Theſe excreſſences ſometimes, have not a conſequence of the venereal poiſon, though poſſeſſed of its ſpecific diſpoſition, which makes mercury neceſſary in removal of them, which is moſt commonly uſed ſucceſsfully, at leaſt five inſtances out of ſeven I have found it ſo.

The

The knife and eſcharotics are not always neceſſary, a pair of ſciſſars when they ſhoot up high, and are ſmall at the neck, is the moſt expeditious mode of removing them; but where I have found patients trembling at the idea of a knife or ſciſſars, or indeed at any cutting inſtrument, as is ſometimes the caſe; I have uſed a mild though efficacious ſubſtitute, which is a ſilk thread, tied round their neck.—But whatever way or method may be adopted for this removal, I conſider it as indiſpenſibly neceſſary to touch the baſe with a cauſtic.—Any cauſtic, ſuch as metallic ſalts, lapis ſepticus, the lapis calaminaris, and ſavin leaves mixed, is one of the beſt ſtimulants I am acquainted with; as united, they ſeldom or never fail of effecting a complete eradication. I prefer it to the knife, ſciſſars, ligature, or any other application, as I have had but one inſtance of its proving unſucceſsful, and in this the others were equally ſo.

About ſeven years ago, I received a letter from a young Nobleman in the neighbourhood of Berkeley-ſquare,

ley-ſquare, the original of which, I have now by me, exactly word for word as follows; together with its poſtſcript:—

MR. GODFREY,

SIR,

Sometime ſince, I had an imprudent connection, by which I contracted venereal chancres, on the glans penis, accompanied with a phymoſis, I put myſelf under the care of an apothecary, who attended me for ſome time, but the cure not appearing to be any thing advanced, he performed the operation for the phymoſis, by ſlitting the prepuce nearly its whole length; when he diſcovered a great number of warts upon the glans, and round the nut; mercurial applications in various forms were applied, but the warts increaſed in ſize, as well as number; two of three of them were therefore cut off with a pair or ſciſſars, and their baſe touched with cauſtic, in the night they bled profuſely, and I tied my handkerchief round them, permitting it to remain in that ſtate till I went the next day to get them dreſt,

in

in about ten days or a fortnight, little warts began to make their appearance over the whole divided prepuce, and thoſe that had been removed grew again; at this time I was obliged to quit London, to go to Paris, on ſome urgent buſineſs; about a fortnight after I arrived there, I found two buboes, forming one in each groin, a French Phyſician and Surgeon was conſulted, who unitedly recommended a ſalivation, which I underwent in three months, the buboes and chancres were compleatly healed, but the warts ſtill remained, notwithſtanding every means uſed for their eradication—ſuch as cauſtic, ſciſſars, ligatures, powder of ſavin, &c. I have now been returned about eighteen months and at preſent under the care of the ſurgeon to our family, from whom I have been taking for the laſt ſix months an alterative pill every night, with a quart bottle of ſtrong decoction of ſarſaparilla every day, but without finding myſelf any better; the warts are now grown ſo large and painful, that I am under the neceſſity of keeping my penis conſtantly ſuſpended, and if any of the former applications are uſed, they put me in ſuch

torture

torture, that exiſtence has become almoſt inſupportable, even a little calomel and ſpermaceti ointment occaſions great pain.—It is now full four years I have been troubled with theſe warts; and ſo many Gentlemen of profeſſional ſkill, have failed in my cure, that I almoſt deſpair of ever getting relieved from them, if you think you can be of any ſervice to me, will thank you to favor me with an anſwer, and I will wait on you at any time you may pleaſe to appoint.

I am Sir, yours, &c. &c.

C. W.

P. S. The reaſon I have taken this method of applying to you in preference to the medical Gentleman who attends my family, is to prevent the poſſibility of a circumſtance like this tranſpiring, as it not only might be extremely injurious to my intereſt, but alſo to the peace and happineſs of ſome branches of my family—which I ſtill more appreciate.

On the peruſal of the above caſe, it appeared clearly to me, that the continuance of the warts

did

did not ariſe from any venereal diſpoſition, but that the parts had acquired a peculiar diſeaſed mode of action, which gave riſe to thoſe warts, and that mercury had no power to deſtroy this action.—His cure juſtified my opinion.—Having, when a boy, been greatly plagued myſelf with warts on my hands, I recollected getting rid of them, by the following advice of a nurſe, ſhe directed me to take a piece of raw beef to rub the warts with, then preſs the juice of the beef on them, tying at night a freſh piece of beef on the hands. and this was to be repeated every night, till they diſappeared, which was in leſs time than two months. An idea ſuggeſted itſelf to me, that the ſame remedy might be ſucceſsful in this caſe.—I therefore ordered the Gentleman to apply the beef as before directed, preſcribing, at the ſame time, the following mixture, as the patients ſtrength was greatly reduced:—*R. Syr. Cort: Aurant. unc: dimid: Tinct. Cort Peruv. drachm: ſex. Decoct. Cort. Peruv. unc. ſeptem. m. f. Mixtura cujus capiat coch.* iv. *ſextâ quâque horâ*: when, to the Gentleman's great ſatisfaction and aſtoniſhment, he was compleatly relieved from every one of the warts, in leſs than ten weeks.

The Preventive Experiments.

OBSERVING in the courſe of my practice, a variety of local chancres, it led me to endeavour to find out a radical cure for them, without having recourſe to the application of the lunar cauſtic, as in ſome very irritable habits, it produced ſo much inflamation, as to bring on a phymoſis.

After trying a variety of preparations for obtaining this deſirable end; I at laſt hit on one that ſeemed to anſwer my moſt ſanguine expectation; and I uniformly made uſe of it for ſeveral years, in caſes where there appeared any tendency to inflammation, and always in theſe caſes, with the happieſt effect.—Seeing it ſo effectually deſtroy the venereal virus, by mixing with the poiſon, and thereby curing the patient.

When

When the diſeaſe was only local—it induced me to make the following experiments. I took venereal matter from a chancre, and mixed with it a portion of this preventive medicine, and taking ſome on the point of a lancet, innoculated myſelf, by inſerting it between the ſkin of the arm, in the ſame manner as we innoculate children for the ſmall pox; in order to ſee if it would produce a venereal chancre on the arm, I ſuffered it to remain there three days, examining it afterwards three or four times a day, to ſee if there appeared any ſigns of ulceration; none appearing, I next examined the glands in the axilla, thinking it might be abſorbed and depoſited in ſome of thoſe glands; but after a minute examination, I could not perceive that any of them were in the leaſt diſeaſed, as they were not at all painful to touch, nor were they in the ſmalleſt degree ſwelled; from that time to this, which is about ten months, feeling no inconvenience in theſe parts, and the orifice perfectly healed without any pain.

I was fully convinced, that the diſeaſe had not taken place,—and that the medicine poſſeſſed a ſpecific power of deſtroying the venereal action, when united before its applicotion to the human ſyſtem, as well as in local chancres; but this did not fully demonſtrate to me, that it had the power of an infallible preventive; it only proved, that it poſſeſſed the power of deſtroying the venereal virus, when mixed, and that no venereal complaint could take place from venereal matter, previouſly united with this medicine.

I therefore took the opportunity (immediately after paſſing my water, in order that the experiment might not be doubtful by the urine waſhing the matter away, before it was likely to take effect) to introduce venereal matter, on the point of a ſmall bougie, into my urethra, permitting it to remain till the bougie began to produce ſome trifling uneaſineſs, when I withdrew it; between the ſecond and third day, I began to feel a diſagreeable titulation and uneaſineſs towards the end of the urethra, attended with a ſlight degree of

pain

pain in paſſing my water—theſe ſymptoms convinced me the complaint was about to take place.

In conſequence of which, I immediately had recourſe to the *preventive medicine*, and applied it as an injection, throwing it up the urethra, with an elaſtic India rubber ſyringe, ſix or ſeven times that day, and four or five for the two ſucceeding days, when all the ſymptoms in the courſe of that time vaniſhed, and I had not the leaſt inconvenience ariſe, and the complaint by this means was compleatly prevented.

The ſucceſs of this laſt experriment, fully proved to me, its preventive powers; ſince which time, I have conſtantly recommended it to the uſe of all my patients, and I have not known a ſingle inſtance where it failed of preventing this complaint, and all the alarming conſequences, which too frequently originate from this direful diſeaſe.

I ſhall now lay before my readers, the neceſſary particulars reſpecting the uſe and application of a ſovereign preventive.—When I delivered my public lectures on this arduous ſubject, I obſerved, that common women, who had only been affected two or three days, frequently gave this complaint to a variety of men who had connections with them, without any appearance of the diſeaſe upon themſelves; this is accounted for, by the venereal virus, lying in the vagina, without producing ill effects to the woman.

To every Gentleman, who may be ſo imprudent as to form a connection of this ſort, I would recommend, to deſire the woman to make uſe of the preventive medicine, and waſh the parts well, previous to the act of coition; this will not only render *himſelf* more ſecure, but it will prevent *her* communicating the complaint to others, who may come after him there, by leſſening the propagation of this loathſome diſeaſe.

With

With reſpect to the manner, Gentlemen are to adopt in the uſe of this preventive, I would recommend indiſcriminately to all Gentlemen, immediately after having any connection that juſtified ſuſpicion—to waſh the whole body of the penis, four or five times a day, to draw the prepuce over the glands, and apply it in like manner, taking particular care, to waſh under and about the frenum, a membranous ligament, under the penis, which ties the prepuce to the glands, as it is probable, the venereal virus may be concealed there, and from the ſkin being thinner, is more ſuſceptible of venereal irritation.

I would likewiſe recommend Gentlemen to throw a ſyringe full up the urethra, four or five times, for three days; and in that time, I am perfectly convinced, the diſeaſe will be infallibly prevented.

For the conveniency of thoſe, who may wiſh to make uſe of this preventive, I have prepared it in the form of a powder, contained in a ſmall

box, which may be carried in the pocket, without the ſmalleſt inconvenience.—As much as you can take up on a ſixpence, will in general be ſufficient for a cup full of water, mixing them well together, by ſtirring them with the finger, and to be uſed as I have juſt directed.

Concluſion

CONCLUSION.

IN writing this ſhort Treatiſe, I had three objects of contending magnitude in view, viz.

Firſt, The neceſſity of preventing the contraction of this diſeaſe.

Secondly, The folly, as well as the certain danger of truſting to noſtrums as an efficatious oppoſer to the protœan aſſumptions of this inveterate diſeaſe;—and

Thirdly, To point out the inevitable fatality, in which, truſting to the prepoſterous abſurdity of ſelf-cure eventually terminates.

On

On the firſt point, I believe there can be but one opinion, in repelling its attack, conquering it in the beginning, or where this cannot be effected, to render it leſs virulent in its progreſs, by carefully watching its inſidious progreſſive contamination.

On the ſecond, I ſhall provoke the enmity of the whole hoſt of Quacks (a formidable body indeed—*particularly to their devoted patients*). But this anticipated abuſe I ſhall place to the credit of my profeſſional account, as this inundation of calumny will be more than amply compenſated, by the candor and liberality of the intelligent practitioner, whoſe countenance and protection I fondly anticipate, eſpecially as I have by labour and induſtry endeavoured to merit it, by thus contributing my mite to the treaſury of medical knowledge, inciting a juſt, generous, and general reprobation of intereſted raſh innovators on the ſcience.

On

On the third point, I have the founder of the doctrine, and the advocates of *ſelf-cure* to encounter with.—The former, will, no doubt, defend his doctrine as it promotes his intereſt;—the latter will be but few, for their number will be confined to thoſe only *who have not yet followed his advice*, for I am confident, that thoſe who have been faſcinated by the temporary deluſion, and have eagerly volunteered themſelvs under the ſtandard of thoſe revolutionary principles in phyſic, and the *new order of things* in medicine, attempted to be eſtabliſhed by Dr. Buchan, will be happy to return ſpeedily to the ſtandard of common ſenſe and certain cure, both of which they evidently abandoned in making this deſperate attack of *ſelf-cure*, and happy will they be, if, after making this unſucceſsful attack, they find ſtrength enough to make an orderly and ſafe retreat to medical aſſiſtance, in order to counteract the dangerous conſequences which are the inevitable companions of the extraneous abſurdity of *ſelf cure!*

Some

Some years back, there were three parties in the Houſe of Commons in this country, viz.

The MINISTRY,
The OPPOSITION,

and a certain eccentric Caledonian Lord, who was in as direct oppoſition to both the other two, as they were to each other, or himſelf was to reaſon and common ſenſe—he ſtood ſingly, in his own perſon—his own party.—Not one Member of either the majority or minority ever ſeconded a motion that he brought forward; in this reſpect he was perfectly revenged on them, for he never, in the ſhort courſe of his parliamentary life, ſeconded a motion, or even voted for it, that came from either the Miniſter or the Oppoſition!

This circumſtance, I think, is exactly ſimilar to the preſent condition of Dr. Buchan, with regard to his doctrine of the *new order of things* in phyſic.

The regular Phyſicians are one party.

The

The Empyrics are another—and the great Dr. Buchan himſelf (ſingly) the third party.

The former he wiſhes to bring into diſrepute from their inutility and monopoly of ſcience, (in other words for being intelligent and learned) the latter he would have exterminated for their ignorance—that on the ruins of both, he might build a Temple, conſecrated to his own fame—inſcribed with five appropriate emblemmatic figures of

1. *Health*—riſing like another reſplendent phœnix from the aſhes of diſeaſe.

2. The *New Order of Things*—by the figure of a half ſtarved regular bred Phyſician.

3. A *Quack*, dead of hunger.

4. *An Aerial Figure*, repreſenting the Caledonian Minerva—vulgarly called the Genius of *ſecond ſight*—inſpiring Dr. Buchan, with the grand ideas

ideas of *ſelf cure*, and the *new order of things*, alternately, inviting, inſtructing, entreating, enjoining, and finally commanding him to write a Treatiſe, decrying Phyſic and Phyſicians, and thereby to reſcue the ſcience from an unchartered monopoly—making every man his own Phyſician, *by only once reading his works!*

5 *A Colloſſian Figure*, of Eſculapius, repreſenting the great Doctor himſelf—pointing to thoſe figures, with a label—ſaying,—" *theſe are the aſtoniſhing works of my—medical ſkill*—and I think if the family medicine, and his treatiſe on the venereal diſeaſe were depictured, and their titles done in large *golden letters* (which the well deſerve, from the quantity of that metal they brought in to their author) it would be an additional laurel in the eſculapian crown, which will entwine the venerable head of the author.

An Iriſh Gentleman, who is by while I write this piece of pleaſantry, ſays—" *it would not be amiſs my dear, if you were to find ſome apropos motto*

for

for your aerial temple, in alluſion to the hundreds that have been KILLED *by* CURING THEMSELVES" as recommended and preſcribed by the Doctor in his treatiſe.

However, I confeſs, that were I actuated by intereſted motives in this ſmall treatiſe, I ſhould have more reaſon to be pleaſed than diſpleaſed at the Doctor's writing,—as an adherence to his principles of *ſelf cure*, has materially extended my buſineſs, and this increaſe of my buſineſs, conſiſts of the half ſacrificed victims to the modern Moloch *ſelf cure*, with this difference only in the compariſon, that the ancient idol, was content with the ſacrifice of infants, to appeaſe his diabolical fury; whereas, the modern muſhroon idol of *ſelf cure*, demands the promiſcuous indiſcriminate ſacrifice of men, women, and children!

I have directed the whole concentrated force of my theoretical knowledge, illuſtrated by a moſt extenſive practice, of near fifteen years, and juſtified by every minutiæ of experience, to

the

the *preventive remedy*.—I have made all the preventive experiments on myſelf, nor did the perſonal danger which muſt inevitably attend ſome of them, deter me from practiſing others, ſtill more dangerous—in order that I might come at a knowledge in my profeſſion, equal to the importance of reſtoring health, and prolonging human life: my principles are, therefore, neither hypothetical nor ſpeculative—they are built on the ſalutary ſafe baſis of ſelf experience, by which I am not only warranted to promiſe, but enabled to enſure their efficacy; having therefore done my duty as a Phyſician, it will not be conſidered as unreaſonable in me, to expect the reciprocal duty of the patient, for, in vain the doctor preſcribes, unleſs the patient follows his preſcriptions; his ſcrupulous compliance with his doctor's directions, embraces two great objects of (almoſt) equal importance to both—It comprehends his own health, and eſtabliſhes the character of his Phyſician, and which every medical man ought to be as ſolicitous to eſtabliſh, as a patient ſhould be careful to preſerve his health—

but

but in the neglect on the part of the patient, to perform this duty, he loſes his health, and perhaps his life, and the doctor in ſome degree, his profeſſional reputation.

I hope this plain manner of reaſoning will have its due weight, with every deſcription of my patients, who ſhall uſe my *preventive remedy*; and the more to induce them to do this act of juſtice to themſelves than me, I hereby advertiſe the ineſtimable reward of health, for their obedience on one hand, and at the ſame time denounce the puniſhment of the protracted miſery of diſeaſe, for their diſobedience, on the other.

Dr. Buchan, after depreciating the whole body of phyſicians, obſerves by way of amelioration of the harſhneſs of his promiſcuous ſentence of condemnation,—"That his Treatiſe on the Venereal Diſeaſe, is not intended to ſuperſede the phyſician, but to ſupply his place where he is not, ſo that patients may cure themſelves with

eaſe and ſafety, by conforming to the rules laid down in his work."

The Doctor here ſeems to have loſt ſight of his accuſtomed acuteneſs, in making ſo weak and exceptionable an apology, for ſurely, if a man can cure himſelf by reading the Doctor's Treatiſe where there is no phyſician, he can, by the ſame purity of reaſoning, and the ſame remedy, cure himſelf where there is one.

Dr. Buchan is more ſatyrical on the faculty than he is aware of.—Le Sage himſelf, in the plenitude of his pointed ridicule againſt that body, has not ſaid or written any thing nearly equal in point of ſarcaſm, to Dr. Buchan's Treatiſe of Self-Cure, or his Domeſtic Medicine, for if ſuch a grand deſideratum can be accompliſhed by every man who is able to read and buy the Doctor's writings, the phyſicians are not only impoſtors, but deſrauders, who get money under *falſe pretences*, by their alleging moſt audaciouſly, that it requires ſome knowledge, learning, ſkill, and

experience

experience to be a phyſician, thereby to exerciſe the healing art. Whereas Dr. Buchan clearly proves the contrary, that it requires nothing but barely to read *his Works*.—What the Doctor ſays on this head is true or it is not true.—If true, they are a ſet of impoſtors, and as ſuch deſerve to be puniſhed: if it is not true, what appellation does the Doctor merit?

It is moſt ſincerely to be wiſhed, that the evils likely to be diſſeminated by this deſtructive doctrine of *ſelf cure*, were confined to the condition of celibacy alone—but alas! it is not ſo.—The innocent chaſte wife, meets the embraces of her imprudent huſband, and as the reward of her pure conjugal careſſes, receives in return the contamination of diſeaſe; for the miſguided huſband, thinks that he can ſtep aſide from the line of propriety without detection, as he can cure himſelf: thus ſecreſy and œconomy, ſo neceſſary to be united in the gallantry of married men, are enſured to the gallant, and becauſe Dr. Buchan has miſled the huſband, the huſband thinks he can

as eaſily impoſe on the wife—but time, the unfolder of all dark deſigns, however ſecretly protected, will ſoon (though perhaps too late for redreſs) convince the *unhappy Quacker of himſelf*, that ſo far from removing, he has confirmed the diſeaſe, and made that irradicable, which, with medical ſkill, a little before might admit of a perfect cure.--The wife gives it to her tender offſpring, by which miſery is entailed on their poſterity; and as a reward for his credulity, the huſband gets rid of his fear of detection, his health, and ſometimes his life--the wife of her's, and their child, into the hard bargain, at the very moderate expence of buying the Doctor's faſcinating ſyſtem of *ſelf cure!!*

Vice in this, as in moſt caſes, brings its own puniſhment; which puniſhment, in this inſtance, will be multiplied in a quintuple ratio, to what it was anterior to the promulgation of that deſtructive doctrine of *ſelf cure*, unleſs I have the good

good fortune, to write it into that deteſtation and obſcurity, to which it ought to be eternally conſigned.

Dr. Buchan attacked my countrymen on two vulnerable points, well known to every ingenious ſpeculator,—viz. credulity and curioſity —Theſe two foibles, peculiar to John Bull, procured the rapid ſucceſſion of editions of his Family Medicine—as John is always ready to believe every plauſible ſtory, however improbable, and is equally eager to gratify his love of novelty, in purchaſing any thing, that promiſes the gratification of it.

The Doctor knew this national characteriſtic well, and conſequently, thought he had a right, at the expence of truth to himſelf, and health to the natives, to avail himſelf of it—by obtruding this dangerous novelty on the public.

The rapidity of the ſale of a book, conſidered under theſe circumſtances, is no criterion to judge

of its utility—as on that principle, the Memoirs of a Woman of Pleaſure, or Harris's Liſt of Covent Garden Beauties, would have a decided claim to rank and conſideration; and I inſiſt on it, the latter publications were never more inimical to morality, than the Doctor's Domeſtic Medicine, and his Treatiſe on Venereal Complaints, are to health.

I ſhall conclude theſe obſervations, with ſhewing to the unprejudiced and impartial public, two or three of the moſt prominent conſpicuous evils, which has, and which ever muſt be the conſequences attendant on conſulting Dr. Buchan's Treatiſe on Domeſtic Medicine.

Firſt, Maternal affection is one of the ſtrongeſt, and at the ſame time one of the moſt amiable paſſions of the female breaſt; but ſometimes we ſee the ſweeteſt wine degenerate into the ſowereſt vinegar. It is frequently ſo with this honourable and praiſe-worthy attachment of a mother to her beloved infant, and that affection, which the

Almighty

Almighty has planted in the breaſt, as the protection of helpleſs infancy, becomes from an unjuſtifiable anxiety, the bane of that health it is injudiciouſly exerted to preſerve.

A lady applied to me when I was in general practice, to viſit her only child, about whoſe health and life three families, beſides her own, were almoſt equally and anxiouſly intereſted. The child appeared pale—with no ſymptoms of any complaint, but weakneſs about him;—on enquiry, I underſtood the mother fancied ſhe had diſcovered ſomething in the child's ſtools that indicated illneſs;—Dr. Buchan's Domeſtic Medicine was therefore conſulted, from which the child had been quacked. I told her, that the infant ſtate was ſubject to a variety of fluctuations, difficult to be accounted for, and that, unleſs in a few certain caſes, it were much better to let nature take its courſe, (aided by good nurſing and proper diet) for in all theſe caſes of incertitude peculiar to the infant ſtate, nature was the beſt phyſician.—She heard me,

but ſhe did not follow my advice—the child was purged—and purged and repurged! His ſtools were analyzed with the ſame anxiety that a Pagan prieſt would watch the entrails of the ſacrifice, to prognoſticate from thence auſpicious or inauſpicious omens. The child grew weaker and weaker as might naturally be expected. I was ſent for again in great haſte—when I came, the huſband took me aſide and informed me, that ever ſince I was laſt there, the nurſe and mother had been perpetually giving it ſome noſtrum preſcribed in Buchan's Domeſtic Medicine. The lady preſſed me to give my opinion, what was the child's diſeaſe, I told her—his medicines—with this ſhe did not ſeem pleaſed, and begged I would preſcribe ſomething for it. I requeſted her huſband would come, and that I would ſatisfy her deſire—he came, and I aſſured her, before I did write, that if ſhe would mind, and comply with ſuch directions as I ſhould order, it would infallibly reſtore the child to ſtrength and health. She ſaid ſhe would moſt ſcrupulouſly. I immediately

ately took the pen and wrote the following preſcription, viz.

Shut up Dr. Buchan's Treatiſe on Family Medicine;
Give the Child no more Medicine;
Look no more into the Child's ſtools,---

and I'll anſwer that this remedy will prove a ſpecific in all ſimilar caſes.

Longevity is a predominant wiſh of human nature, to arrive at which period, every art that valetudinarianiſm can ſuggeſt is eſſayed. Dr. Buchan has given plenty of work in his Family Medicine to this deſcription of hypocondraic patients. They read his works, and beginning regularly with the catalogue of human diſeaſes, alternately compare his indicative ſymptoms with their own, and are afflicted regularly by a kind of ſympathy with every diſorder he mentions. Such people put me in mind of the camelion, who having no colour of his own, aſſumes by reflection, every colour he is oppoſed to. I have a lady of this deſcription at this moment, a

patient

patient of mine, who I ſhall have more trouble I fear, to perſuade that ſhe is perfectly well in her health, than to cure ſeven that are actually diſeaſed. So much ſuperior to medical ſkill is the unpitied diſorder of abſurdity! For this patient I am alſo indebted to Dr. Buchan's Treatiſe on the Venereal Diſeaſe, for only by his book *was ſhe infected.*

There is almoſt a commenſurate reciprocal affection between the body and the mind, and a diſeaſe or the fooliſh conceit of a diſeaſe, renders life very miſerable, what worſe can real ſickneſs do? Hence it is, that Valetudinarians have found out the art of *ſelf-tormenting*, which hypocondraic abſurdity is fed in weak minds, by the anticipated ſymptoms of diſeaſe deſcribed in the viſionary theory of *ſelf-cure*, which, though it can never cure a real diſorder, may bring on a dozen imaginary ones, and which no human ſkill can remove, but by leaving off taking that food which nouriſhes them,—the reading ſuch Treatiſes as the Domeſtic Medicine.

Third,

Third, The matter is infinitely more ſerious, with reſpect to treating the venereal diſeaſe; for I maintain it, that taking no remedy whatever, is more beneficial to the patient, than the dangerous one of ſelf quackery.—If this complaint is left for months, it may be removed by ſkilful medical aid, but if it is unſkilfully tempered with, it confirms it in the ſyſtem, and like brandy in a high fever, brings it to the criſis of aggravated inveteracy.

I appeal to every medical man in the world, whether this is not a fact.—I alſo appeal to the ſuffering patients, who have ſurvived ſelf quackery, for the truth of this aſſertion.—The independance and reſpectability of ſeveral patients, I have got in conſequence of this innovation on medical practice, ſufficiently prove, that I am not actuated by any perſonal motives whatever, in writing againſt Dr. Buchan's works.

He who writes for his own intereſt, writes well; he who writes for the intereſt of the public,

writes

writes better.—To that impartial tribunal, I appeal for their determination, who has beſt acquitted himſelf of this latter important duty, Dr. Buchan or I.—I wait their decree with reſpect—"It is not in the power of mortals to command "ſucceſs, but we can do more, we can endeavour "to deſerve it!"

I think it a duty I owe the intelligent and reſpectable profeſſion, to which I have the honor to belong, to ſay a few words, reſpecting the practical part, treated of in this work—It is laconic, but it is well choſen, as every caſe, and every ſtage of the diſorder I have treated on, is recommended, not from theory, but my own immediate practice.

I have read with the greateſt attention, the works of the moſt celebrated authors of former, later, and preſent times, on the ſubject, and in none did I find, ſo much ſcientific ſkill diſplayed, as in the works of the late lamented, and juſtly celebrated Dr. Hunter--Him, I made my model,

becauſe

becauſe I found his principles juſtified in almoſt every inſtance of my own practice--and conformable to the opinion of that luminary of medical knowledge, I have delivered my own opinion, with no variation from its ſpirit, and but little from its letter--which ſo far, from attempting to conceal, I am proud to acknowledge, eſpecially, as I have already mentioned his ſuperior judgement, warrants me in the proſecution of a plan of practice, the ſucceſs of which, always has been commenſurate to the precaution by which it was followed.

But to theſe gentlemen, and the public, I pledge myſelf very ſoon to preſent a ſupplementary volume on nothing but practice, formed from caſes of my own experience. Another reaſon co-operated to my treating the practical part leſs in detail, viz.--I thought it was not ſo eſſentially, or at leaſt ſo immediately neceſſary to the good of ſociety, to give an elaborate treatiſe, on a ſubject, that had been treated on before, as to ſtop the rapid progreſs of a new doctrine, calcu-

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lated to promote, not to prevent the evil it propoſed to remove; a ſlow fire may be ſtopped by deliberate means, but to extinguiſh a rapid fierce flame, every man ſhould bring his bucket of water to extinguiſh it, leſt it ſhould end in a general conflagration.

FINIS.